

THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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before. We are getting nearer to the long-looked-for goal. We shall soon have nothing between us and it to distract attention or divert effort. The pith of our high enterprise may henceforth engage our undivided thoughts. "In the name of our God, let us set up our banners."

Gentle readers help us, we beseech you. Do your best to help us in doing our best. We look longingly to you for encouragement, sympathy, support during the year upon which we have entered, for we, perhaps, best know how greatly we need them. We thank you for the past. We trust you for the future. In the way of all your work and its issues, your ties and their pleasures, your prospects and your realisation of them, we cordially wish you A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Our heart's desire for her is that the too abundant endowments which she has been permitted to retain for her use, may not be a snare to her; that she will know how to use her freedom with a simple reference to the will and the service of her Lord; and that she may gain a spiritual influence among the Churches of Christendom, which shall be a far greater compensation to her than any worldly prestige she may have lost by the loss of her political ascendancy.

When, however, this country, its statesmen, its legislators, its press, and its people, have exhausted their congratulations upon the Irish Church, and have poured into her ear words of encouragement and hope, we would fain inquire what there is in the position of the Church of England which should exclude her from participating in the results inseparable from the principle of disestablishment? According to the testimony of those who were supposed to have best known, and ought to have best known, the spiritual condition of the Irish Church in 1868-9, her clergy were fully equal, if they did not excel, the clergy of the Church of England in the godliness of their character and in their devotedness to their work, it is doubtful whether, regard being had simply to spiritual results, the policy sanctioned by Parliament two years ago for Ireland, is not even more imperatively demanded by the condition of England. In all but numbers, the relative numbers we mean of the non-established to the established—the main features of the Church of Ireland as it was then, and of the Church of England, as it is now, closely correspond. If political ascendancy was such an injurious thing to the Church of Ireland, both in regard to its own members and to those who stood outside its pale, how can it be a good thing for the Church of England? If the State-Church policy was unjust and intolerable in Ireland—so much so, that virtuous and sensitive statesmen could no longer endure the responsibility of maintaining it—what makes it, in the estimation of those same statesmen, so consistent with justice in England? Shall we tell them what is the real difference between the two cases? The difference is this. In the case of Ireland they who were outside of the State-Church pale, were numerous enough, united enough, strong enough to give their rulers trouble. In the case of England, their relative proportions are considerably less, their representative men are not agreed; and the want of hearty good-will to the work that is before them, and greater devotion to personal and party interests than to the interests of the Churches, have given and continue to give to politico-ecclesiasticism in this country, an appearance of strength and permanence which has no corresponding reality.

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

DISESTABLISHMENT REALISED.

THE Irish Church ceased to be a State Church at midnight on Saturday last. It entered on the first day and the first Sunday of the New Year as a Church wholly independent of the Civil Power. It has its destinies now in its own hands. It has reconstituted itself, if only for the time being, in accordance with the weight of opinion expressed by its own members. It continues under law for protection. It is severed from law in regard to any special privileges. Its clergy, it is true, are still endowed, but are endowed only with those life interests of their incumbencies, commuted or uncommuted, which the State, partly in justice, partly in generosity, put into their hands on leaving them. Her bishops will no more be summoned to sit in the House of Lords. Her ministers have become, in the eye of the law, private citizens. The institution has lost its political status, and will henceforth depend solely upon its own Christian character and efforts. She has taken a position which, if she do not make it one of religious progress and triumph, it will be because her habits have been spoiled by past supremacy, or because her activities have been damped by too lavish a dowry.

The transition of the Irish Church from her bondage to entire freedom, from her state of servile dependence to one of self-reliance and self-rule, is naturally a subject of comment generally by the English Press. In the main, the organs of public opinion on this side of St. George's Channel have viewed the disestablishment of the Church in Ireland as a somewhat trying discipline, it is true, but as a real and substantial boon, and they have mingled with the congratulations they have offered her, some very sound and wholesome reflections. We, too, rejoice to pay our respects, and to offer our good wishes to the disestablished Irish Church upon its entrance into the ranks of the Free Churches of Christendom. We pray that the choicest blessing of the Lord of the Church may be given to her in profusion; that, in the language of Holy Writ, she may "enlarge the place of her habitation"; that she may visibly embody the gentle, persuasive, dauntless and triumphant spirit of the Gospel committed to her charge; and that she may more than overtake, if it be possible, the grand opportunities now, for the first time, put within her reach.

If the temporary hesitancy of the Liberal party to complete the work which they began in 1868, confirmed, as we fear it has been, by the unaccountable backwardness of a small section of the Liberationists, should be far prolonged, there is but one course open to those who desire to see the completion of the disestablishment policy, in its application to the Church of England and the Scottish Kirk. They will have to lay the whole case before Parliament, once and again, with all the reasons by which they can sustain it, until circumstances once more place the Liberals in Opposition. How soon this may be, or what

TO OUR READERS.

THE dawn of 1871 has broken in clouds. There is no cheering light save overhead. Looking upward, we may indulge a confident hope of a brighter day. Immediately before us, and on either side of us, there is confusion, war, and "garments rolled in blood." Violence has usurped the seat of righteousness—passion, escaped from the control of reason, is holding its carnival—and beyond the scenes of devastation, anguish and death which fascinate our troubled gaze, shapeless and ominous forms of evil fit bither and thither across the horizon. What will the year bring to our beloved country? To the interests which have deepest hold upon our hearts? To the social, moral, political, ecclesiastical, and spiritual agencies, the more energetic and successful exercise of which we have so often anticipated with the subdued joy of hope? In what way will it affect our own firesides, our personal prospects, our individual character? Since this journal was launched in 1841, it has not been our lot to address our readers in gloomier times than the present. That we are approaching a better order of things we fully believe—but, for the time being, "shadows, clouds, and darkness rest upon it."

Nevertheless, gentle readers, those of us who will discern in the dark aspect of outward things the greater reason for being steadfast in the performance of duty, and in the daily discharge of duty the highest dignity and reward to which we can aspire on earth, need not enter upon the new year's connection with one another, nor express mutual sympathy, with downcast spirits. We have plenty of work before us—hard work, trying work, noble work. And some kinds of work are best done when the sky is overcast. As the public mind becomes more and more deeply serious, and the garish sunshine of national prosperity ceases to stimulate in men, and classes, and nations a self-confident estimate of their own power and virtue, the opportunity for instilling into them great truths becomes more favourable. The *Nonconformist* was established for the purpose of drawing attention to, and promoting, the spirituality of Christ's kingdom on earth, and its independence of political ascendancy and legal authorisation and support. That object, it seems likely, both its readers and its conductors will be able this year more directly to aid than it has ever been their privilege to do

the occasion that may break up the present combination of parties, we do not presume to conjecture. But we take for granted that the present Administration is the last in which the Whig element will have a predominant influence. If it can keep us clear from war, no doubt great allowances will be made for it in other respects—at least, until another general election will have enabled the working-class portion of the constituencies to give fuller effect to its views. If war should ensue, or any extravagant preparations for it should largely increase the burden of taxation, Mr. Gladstone's Government can hardly look forward to any long maintenance of its position. It is impossible for them to save the principle of Church Establishments by any combination of Parliamentary parties. They may, it is true, give to it a further brief lease of existence, but they will do that at the ultimate expense of their own ascendancy in the State. And what they might now recognise and aid as a policy of the future, they will be compelled to adopt, at no very distant period, as the policy of necessity; and to achieve without credit the work which two years ago they so eagerly and triumphantly commenced.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

ONE of the most remarkable speeches we have ever read, was delivered last week by the Bishop of Manchester at the induction of the Rev. T. S. Eagar, as Rector of Ashton-under-Lyne. We are indebted for a report of the Bishop's address to the *Ashton-under-Lyne News*, which, after a humorous sketch of the proceedings preliminary to induction, gives a full report of Bishop Frazer's remarks. The first portion of these remarks related to local circumstances of which we need take no account, and then the Bishop addressed himself to the position, character, purpose, &c., of the Established Church. The Bishop upon this occasion drew a really lovely picture. Until we read his description we should never have dreamed that Dr. Frazer was possessed of such power of imagination as he has exhibited at Ashton. We give, in naked and truthful words, the outlines of what may be termed an Episcopal fancy sketch. Dr. Frazer said that the ministers of the Church occupied their places for the spiritual advantages of the people, and for no other purpose; that the Church by its very Constitution was a National Church; that she was not, and must not become a sect; that she had no business to ally herself with any political party; that "she was not the Church of the rich; she was not the Church of the poor; but she was the Church of the rich, the middle class and the poor." "Everybody" (even Baptists of course) "had a right to her ministrations." If her services were repudiated they must be offered. The clergy must make no difference between Churchmen and Dissenters. Their great function was to preach peace and goodwill amongst men.

Well, what a refreshing, virgin territory must Ashton-under-Lyne be! We fancy we have heard that its last rector occupied his place for his own advantage exclusively, and not for that of the people, for the Ashton sequestration is a rather familiar topic. We fancy that we have heard a little about the unusually rigid sectarianism of the Rev. Mr. Eagar, who was inducted on this occasion; we fancy we have read somewhere that the Church has lost both the poor and the middle-classes, and we fancy we have heard before about rights to ministrations upon paying for them. Two things, however, we never did hear of before, and these are, that the clergy must make no difference between Churchmen and Dissenters, and that their great function was to preach peace and good-will amongst men. Does Dr. Frazer know so little of the history of his own Church, or so little of its present feeling towards Dissenters? Has he really ever read the Canons which he has over and over again sworn to obey? What ought a clergyman of his Church to do, even if not disposed to do it—which is a marvellously rare occurrence? Does he not know that a clergyman ought not, by the Canons which he has sworn to obey, to make no difference between Dissenters and Churchmen? Does he not know that the widest difference is actually made? And, then,—the mission of the clergy of the Established Church, "peace and good-will." Good heavens! And an intelligent and, apparently, well-informed man, living in this very year, says this! As we have said, however, Dr. Frazer is unexpectedly good at a fancy picture. Nothing, certainly, could be further from the truth, and nothing more opposed to the truth, than the highly imaginative description which he has drawn in the words which

he addressed to the innocent inhabitants of Ashton-under-Lyne. But are the Ashton-Lyners so ignorant as the Bishop supposes? Is it not possible that Dr. Frazer forgot that he was not in Dorsetshire? However, we will keep his sketch and hang by its side a photograph.

The Rev. John Curwen, of Plaistow, has addressed a valuable letter to a local paper—the *Stratford Express*—which we should be glad, if we could, to print in full. Mr. Curwen calls attention to the avowed designs of Churchmen in regard to the Education Act. In regard to his own parish he points out how the clergy, by being mere denominationalists, which, of course, they all are, have taken advantage of grants for denominational schools which undenominationalists could not do. He then shows the present purpose of the same people. He quotes from the letter of the bishop of the diocese the following:—

For obvious reasons, it will be almost impossible to maintain a Church school supported by voluntary payments side by side with a rate-aided school. And yet these Church schools are our only hope of preserving to the children of our labourers and artisans the blessings of education, sanctified by definite religious teaching.

He then quotes from the Bishop of Lichfield as follows:—

The work of the teacher was to teach all the children committed to him, so that they should not receive the grace of God in vain. The foundation of all teaching was the gift of the Holy Spirit in baptism. All school-teachers should be communicants, and by their example lead their scholars to the Holy Altar. In fine, let all schoolmasters first learn, and then teach all others they could, the grand truths of that catholic faith, once for all delivered to the Saints.

We make two further quotations of the same kind:—

The Bishop of Winchester lately told his clergy that though creeds and catechisms are excluded, it is easy for the schoolmaster to teach all the "distinctive doctrines" of the Church without the use of those standards.

The Bishop of Ely (Dr. Harold Browne) has also given his testimony against what is called "undenominational" teaching. At a recent meeting at Bury St. Edmund's, he said, "he could not see why persons objected to doctrinal and dogmatic religion—dogmatic meant doctrinal—there was no difference except in the name. He would rather see Mahometanism taught in this country than have that undogmatic Christianity, which really meant Christianity with no doctrine at all." And this is the most unsectarian Church! Will anybody write a paper or deliver a lecture upon this specific question,—That the Established Church is, and always has been, not the most comprehensive, but the most sectarian and the most narrow of all the ecclesiastical communities in England. It is the mother of all sectarianism, and will be as long as it exists.

A friend has forwarded to us a copy of the last number of the *Adelaide Register*, in which reference is made to the treatment of the Deceased Wife's Sister's Bill, which has been repeatedly passed by the Colonial Parliament. The *Register* says:—

Once more the attempt of the Legislature to amend the law relating to the marriage of a deceased wife's sister has been defeated, for the sole reason that the English Parliament has not seen fit to acquiesce in the policy approved and repeatedly urged by South Australia. The following extract from a despatch of Lord Kimberley to His Excellency the Governor gives the Imperial view of the question:—"With regard to the reserved bill which accompanied your despatch 'to legalise the marriage of a man with the sister of his deceased wife,' I have to inform you that as the Imperial law still remains unaltered, I cannot depart from the course pursued by the Duke of Newcastle when a similar bill was passed, and I am therefore unable to advise that this Act should receive the Royal assent."

The ground of this refusal will be quite new to the English people. Hitherto, the Government has not hesitated to approve of Colonial Acts, such as the Ballot and Disendowment, the principles of which were not adopted in England. In this question, however, the ignorance and prejudice of ignorant and prejudiced ecclesiastics is to be allowed to prevail over intelligence, common sense, morality, and national desire. How long will the colonists submit to such a rule?

The *Daily News* of yesterday contains, for once, some small atoms of domestic intelligence, for which, we trust, its English readers will feel duly grateful—supposing that they, for all such intelligence, have not long ago, though reluctantly, abandoned that once admirable journal for the *Tory Standard*, where alone, during the last few months, it has been possible to find home news. We quote the following on the Burial Laws from the *Daily News* of yesterday, with astonishment that our contemporary could devote such space to any domestic matter:—

SIR.—May I place before your readers a case strongly illustrative of the working of the burial question in country districts? About seven years ago a young man left his home at Mayfield, a pleasant village in Sussex, for an appointment as clerk in a merchant's office in Maidstone. His habits were very quiet and retiring, and his religious opinions were of what is termed the Calvinistic order—views which are not popular in all circles—but so faithfully were his duties performed, and

such was the consistency of his character, that he won the esteem and respect of not only the whole of his fellow-employés, but also of the principal of the establishment, a gentleman of position, attached to the Established Church, who has been twice Mayor of the borough, and who holds the Queen's commission as a justice of the peace. A few months ago the young man was compelled to return home on account of failing health, and a fortnight since he died. So highly was he valued, that his employer, at considerable personal inconvenience, attended the funeral. I mention these points in order to show the character of the young man. Will it be credited that the clergyman of the parish, the Rev. T. Murdock Kirby, M.A., refused to allow the corpse to be taken into the parish church, and would not read, or allow anyone to conduct, a service at the grave. And so in silence the young man was buried. Mr. Kirby had offered to put on the surplice and head the funeral procession from the house to the grave. More than this he absolutely refused to do, and he suggested that the corpse should be taken for interment to the nearest Nonconformist burying-ground, at Heathfield, five miles distant. The Rev. T. Murdock Kirby, M.A., may be beyond the reach of public opinion; but is this conduct such as becomes one who should be a pattern of the charity which "doth not behave itself unseemly," and which "never faileth"? Or, is it the case that the law of the Church allows a clergyman to bury the drunkard and the profligate in "sure and certain hope," &c., and yet forbids the reading of the burial service at the funeral of a young man of well-known religious and moral excellence, if he has not been the subject of a religious rite in his infancy? Does the law really give the clergyman of a parish power thus to cause additional sorrow to bereaved friends? If so, the Rev. T. Murdock Kirby, M.A., must make some strenuous effort to bring about an alteration of a law which is more fitted to the middle ages than to the present time; or must come out of that Church; or thinking men will fairly conclude that he approves of the present state of the law.—I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

ROBERT BARLING.

Bucklaw-road, Maidstone, Dec. 30.

There is little to be said about this. It is the old grievance over again, and that is all. Mr. Barling seems surprised. We are surprised that he is surprised. It is the Established Church as it is everywhere.

A working man who is one of hundreds writes to us as follows concerning the manner in which the Church has grasped the charities in his locality. His letter is dated from a parish near Margate,—

In this village there have been from time to time several charitable bequests for the relief of the poor. I believe the vicar and churchwardens are trustees, and for several years there have been no distributions, or any statement made to show in what way the fund has relapsed. What I wish to know is, the way by which I can get, or compel the trustees to give, some explanation? or can there be any appeal to the Charity Commissioners? Could you kindly inform me through the medium of your paper? If you could, you would greatly oblige the small number of workmen who weekly eagerly scan the pages of the *Nonconformist*.

Our friend is informed that he had better at once place himself in communication with the Charity Commissioners, York-place, St. James's-square, and that if he should not hear from them, he had better communicate again with us. We shall be happy to look after the case as far as we may be able to do so.

THE COMPREHENSION THEORY OF AN ESTABLISHMENT.

This was the subject of a very able paper read by the Rev. Joseph Wood, of Oxford-street Chapel, Leicester, at one of the recent State-Church conferences held in that town. On this occasion the chair was taken by William Baines, Esq. The lecturer commenced by defining what was meant by the comprehension theory. Its fundamental idea, and according to Dean Stanley the fundamental position of a State Church, is that the State "should recognise and support some religious expression of the community." He would extend the borders of the Church of England by abolishing its present tests, breaking down its present barriers, and receiving into its communion all who are willing to assent to the Apostles' Creed. Sir John Coleridge follows in the same track. Mr. Matthew Arnold, who sees "that the power of the congregation in the management of their own affairs" is a principle for which Nonconformists have contended three hundred years, and which, though not an essential of religion, has yet so much of reason and justice to back it up that no settlement of the differences between Nonconformists and Episcopalians can be permanent which does not take it into account, would comprehend Dissenters in a different fashion. He would let the "popular church discipline, formerly found in the National Church, and still found in the affections and practice of a good part of the nation, appear in the National Church once more; and thus bring Nonconformists into contact again, as their greater fathers were, with the main stream of national life?" The two theories of comprehension as thus briefly stated by Mr. Wood:—

1. A widening of the present Establishment by the abolition of all tests and subscriptions, except a simple colourless creed, to which the great majority of Christians shall be able to give a common assent, and which shall thus gather into the ark of the State-Church those great bodies of Nonconformists who at present live a separate life: the Church still to be subject in all its affairs—the regulation of its Ritual, the order of its discipline, the appointment of its officers—to the control of the State.

2. The creation of a rival Congregational Establishment side by side with the Episcopalian, its officers to rank equally with bishops, priests, and deacons—ap-

pointed, however, as they are now appointed: the Church still to retain the management of its own affairs, only subject to the State as to a legal court of appeal when internal differences arise.

With the minor arguments in favour of comprehension they need not take much trouble—

We are not greatly moved by the warning that Nonconformity breeds a "provincial" tone of mind, while Establishments favour "totality." We entirely fail to see the "mildness and sweet reasonableness" of the Record over the *Nonconformist*. We equally fail to see how any scheme of comprehension will bring us "more in contact with the main stream of human life" than we are at present. If the argument is good for anything, it is good for subsidising the newspapers, and creating side by side with a Church Establishment a Press Establishment. Neither can we at all sympathise with Dean Stanley's pathetic horror at the prospect of "Westminster Abbey sold to the first purchaser for what its stones are worth," because such horror is only a piece of theatrical hypocrisy. The Dean knows perfectly well that Nonconformists have as great a veneration for our old churches as Episcopalian, and that were disestablishment as imminent as the most ardent of us could wish, he would still be secure in his office as the chief of the noblest of our national churches. There is also the old argument so eloquently put by Arnold, as to the benefit of having a clergy in the rural parts of the country; something saved "out of the scramble, which no covetousness can appropriate and no folly waste; a provision made for public purposes in the most unattractive districts, no less than in the most inviting—a man of education placed in every part of the country"—an argument made to do service again under other conditions. But we know very well that were the parish churches closed to-morrow, there would be enthusiasm enough in Dissent to fill the vacant places; and moreover, as Wales and Cornwall and Lincolnshire can testify, the poor in unattractive districts prefer providing for themselves. Besides, we have no reason to suppose that disestablishment would shut up the parish churches. If it would, then what a frightfully degrading motive keeps them open now, and what an argument it affords for sweeping such a mercenary, unclean thing off the face of the earth.

There are two main arguments which the advocates of comprehension regard as unassailable. They have now seized the guns of Nonconformists, and make an especial merit of the Church of England being an Act of Parliament Church. This arrangement protects the Church against government by the clergy or self-constituted cliques; it has, we are told, this manifest advantage over Nonconformity—it ensures the laity in the control of Ecclesiastical affairs. How so?—

Nonconforming churches have always been governed by the laity, and the clergy have had no exclusive privileges, have had no influence at all except that which each man won for himself by the force of his moral character. Very wisely, as I think, the laity in our Churches have always reserved to themselves the ultimate authority. As an historical fact, Nonconformists "have contended nearly three centuries for the power of the congregation in the management of their own affairs"; and Mr. Arnold, who recognises this fact, may fairly be left to answer Dr. Stanley. Only for a moment, let us ask how this boasted control by the laity works? What practical power have the laity of the Establishment over the regulation of their worship or the appointment of their ministers—matters surely in which they might claim a voice? Absolutely none. You may tell us of Lay Patrons, and Lord Chancellor's livings, and the Premier's Bishop, and you may say that those instances prove that the power of appointing ministers lies absolutely with the laity. But with what laity? Your Premier may be a Jew, your Lord Chancellor a debauchee, your lay patron anything from a Mormon to a Brahmin—who knows nothing of the congregation over whom he sets a pastor, and cares less; who gives the living as a political bribe, or to provide a younger son with an income; or puts the cure of souls up to auction, to pay his gambling debts. The laity of the Church are the congregation for the time being, but they are never consulted, their wants and opinions are never taken into account. One year they may all be at ease under a mild Evangelical, the next smarting under a redhot Ritualist. In the same pulpit they may hear one publicly-commissioned officer anathematising Rometin terms borrowed from the Apocalypse, and within a few weeks another anticipating the time when "the demon of Protestantism shall be exorcised from our beloved Church." "And all this," says a writer in the *Guardian*, "falls the bader on the laity, because there is no security against sudden changes both in doctrine and ritual being made without their consent being asked or had—changes in which they have the deepest interest but no voice."

The other great and by far the more favorite argument is the opportunity which an Establishment gives for "the gradual growth of religious forms and religious opinions, and of that free expression of individual belief which is indispensable to any healthy development of religious action." Free thought, free speech, and unfettered action are secured to a greater degree in an Establishment than in voluntary communities. New opinions and new developments of religious thought are safer from the blight of persecution, and spring up into life and beauty much more readily in the genial, tolerant atmosphere of a State Church than in the keen, biting, suspicious atmosphere of so-called Free Churches. They (that is, Nonconformists), by their position, are rigidly bound to fixed theological ideas, and as a very condition of their existence are obliged to exercise a "watchful jealousy" over the least divergence from the beaten track. It is the State Church only which rains sunshine upon those daring spirits who venture in "pastures new." In a word, Comprehension means that the State Church should be a place of shelter for every form and variety of opinion, an ark alike for the clean and unclean; a gilded cage, in which those systems that naturally have an antipathy to each other—Evangelical, Romanist, Calvinist, Unitarian, Methodist, Mormon, Positivist, and Shaker—shall dwell

quietly under one roof, like those happy families we sometimes see exhibited, the natural propensities of whose members are to devour one another, but who consent to refrain from giving way to the delights of tooth and claw on condition of being well fed all round. This (said the lecturer) is turning the tables upon Nonconformity with a vengeance. The long-cherished idea that an Establishment has been the most effectual engine for crushing out freedom of thought, arresting the progress of new ideas, and securing uniformity of opinion, is a profound mistake. The State-Church, according to Dean Stanley and Mr. Arnold, always has been comprehensive; it was of its essence that it should embrace various and discordant opinions, and it only turned out the Puritans because they would persist in making her intolerant and illiberal. Mr. Wood showed, in an historical retrospect, how entirely this view is upset by the experience of this country. It was a familiar saying that, if Wesley had been in the Roman Church, they would have allowed him to start a new order, with an organisation and a ritual of his own. But in the English Church everything out of the beaten track had been repressed or cast out, and the trees which promised to grow of their own divine vitality had been rooted up or clipped and cut down to pollards. In one sense the Establishment had been indeed comprehensive—

It has comprehended within law-courts and jails those who have refused to acknowledge her sway, or pay her dues. Charles Lamb once saw a butcher trying to drive a calf into the narrow passage which led to a slaughter-house. After much swearing and belabouring, Lamb ventured a word of advice. "Try a little conciliation," whereupon the butcher raised his steel and brought it down with such vigour upon the head of the calf that it was felled to the ground. "There," he replied, "I have conciliated him now." It is in like fashion we have been comprehended. Gentlemen, what shall we say, in the presence of our honoured chairman, to the comprehensiveness of a church which once locked him up nine months in the common jail, for refusing to violate his conscience? What shall we say to the "mildness and sweet resemblances" of a Church which, to this day, refuses Christian burial to unbaptized children, and condemns them to be interred like dogs? What shall we say to the liberty and large tolerance of a Church which bars the doors of our Universities against all who do not subscribe to her creeds?

This idea of comprehension was in fact an after thought adopted in harmony with the free thought of the age, and the clergy of the Established Church had been among the first to respond to the call. This might not be a charge against them, because, as had been said, "in this instance I admire the inconsistency, being strongly of opinion that in such a matter the more all churches are inconsistent with their past the better." Only, however good inconsistency of this sort might be, it might be purchased at too high a price. There was one thing more valuable even than free thought and unfettered speech, and that was obedience to conscience. Look at the vows which every clergyman was under, and they would then see the price he paid for freedom. They had thought, and the highest authorities in the Church had told them, that the Articles and formularies all aimed at uniformity. Now they were assured that their real essence was Comprehension:—

I should be glad to believe it, and I for one should never urge that as a reason for disestablishment. My point is that an Establishment never can be Comprehensive in the true and full sense of the idea. It must draw a hard and fast line somewhere. To be truly Comprehensive it must embrace the religion of negation—that is, Infidelity—as well as every other form of faith. Were all the tests of the Church done away with, with the exception of a simple assent to the Apostles' Creed, it would still not be a Comprehensive, but an exclusive Church. Were the use of its Liturgy its only test, it would still be a Church unfavourable to the free development of religious thought, because every fresh movement would have to accommodate itself to the Book of Common Prayer. A test of any kind raises a barrier to free thought and unfettered speech, and surely above all things else we have a right to demand that of our ministers. Nothing is so needful for them and for us as that they should be free to turn a stream of fresh thought upon the stock ideas which men follow so staunchly and mechanically, "vainly imagining that there is a virtue in following them staunchly which makes up for the mischief of following them mechanically." Nothing is so needful for them and for us as freedom to discuss, without let or hindrance, all questions which scientific or theological research bring to light. No doubt such freedom is attended with great danger, but there is still greater danger in suppression. Men may do with their freedom like the moth, let it degenerate into the rashness which flies into the flame of the candle; but there is a rashness no less, as Archbishop Whately reminds us, of the horse that is burnt to death because it refuses to leave its accustomed stall. I fully sympathise with Dean Stanley's plea on behalf of the clergy for freedom of inquiry and speech, but when he puts forward the Establishment as the one place above all others where that freedom may be found, I break ground with him, especially when this is put forward as the great argument for a State Church, and we are somewhat tauntingly told in addition that this freedom is impossible in Dissent. We point to history, and feel confident that history will support us, only when we do that we are told to let the dead past bury its dead, and look at the present and the facts of the present generation. The cause of free speech in the Established Church has been tried before the highest courts of the land, with victorious results. The Privy Council will not find a man guilty of heresy if they can possibly help it, and the Gorham judgment, which allowed the Evangelicals to put their interpretation upon the formularies, and the Essays and Reviews judgment, which allowed Broad Churchmen to put their interpretation upon the Articles, are triumphantly trotted out, and in derisive contrast we are pointed to the narrowness of free churches, and to the anathemas of peddling Dis-

senting college committees when men depart from the well-worn ways. Very graphic pictures are drawn of hole-and-corner church meetings and deacons' conspiracies which disgrace our Sales and Bethels when a minister is once suspected of being unsound in the faith. I am not going to defend the bigotry and miserable squabbles which undoubtedly blot the fair fame of Nonconformity. We have much to be proud of, we have also something to be ashamed of, on our part. But we all know the proverb about "stones" and "glasshouses," and nothing which has ever occurred in the meanest meeting-house of Dissent has ever equalled the intrigues, the vindictiveness, the contemptible shifts, the wild passions, with which parties in the Church have endeavoured to prove each other heretical and cast each other out. Yes, it is replied, but by its alliance with the State no party has been able to gain a triumph over the others. The clergy of the Church can appeal to the law, and the law (calm, just and passionless) will secure their freedom: while Dissenting ministers must ever be subject to congregational tyranny.

When they had widened the entrance doors, and liberalised the Established Church, the objections of Nonconformists to a religious establishment would remain. The State would still interfere in a department of human life, the department of thought and feeling, of aspiration and desire, of conscience and spiritual progress, in which it had no influence and no authority. There were three reasons why they must refuse to adopt comprehension:—

1. It is immoral. It is a gigantic system of bribery all round, in order to disarm opposition against an institution which friend and foe alike agree cannot stand long on its present foundation. The very simplicity of the proposed test will give a fascination to the bribe, because, being so simple, men will more readily overcome the small prickings of conscience when they attempt to swallow it. For no test which can be devised, can be subscribed to by a number of men without a violation of the sanctity of words. There are as many Christians as there are Christians, and no definite creed can square with many consciences, unless each man is allowed to put his own interpretation upon it, when of course the better plan will be to do without it altogether. Of course you cannot scatter the national property indiscriminately; you must draw a line, you must impose some test, and a test of any kind is a direct bribe to sully the conscience.

2. It is inexpedient. It is always inexpedient to adopt a cumbersome method of removing a difficulty when a simpler one is at hand. The Establishment as it now exists is a vast, complicated machine, which is only secured from danger and from spontaneous explosion by a number of checks, fly-wheels, safety-valves, governors, breaks, and a thousand artificial contrivances. But to make it comprehensive you must introduce a large number of new complications, and to adjust them and make them work smoothly must multiply indefinitely your checks and safety-valves until no engineer in the world could control the cumbersome thing. The simple and more expedient method of solving the difficulty is the one we offer in disestablishment; placing all upon an equality, comprehension is inexpedient, because it will create the very nuisance it seeks to remove—Dissent. It is inexpedient, because it would convert the whole Christian Church into a department of the State, whose tendency would be to turn the clergy into mere state officials, a condition of things which is found in Prussia, and which we are told by a writer in the *Times* has made of the Prussian clergy little more than a body of missionaries, who preach religious doctrines in the interest of Conservatism. They are state officials whose business is to tell the people not to be infidels in order that they may not be Radicals. That we should adopt a system which has the slightest tendency in that direction would certainly be inexpedient.

3. It is impracticable. The financial difficulties of comprehension are so great that they would reduce any Chancellor of the Exchequer, even Mr. Lowe, to hopeless idiocy. The claims of the thousand sects in our midst, their equitable adjustment, and the enormous increase it would give to our taxation, would send the office of Chancellor begging. The Lord Chamberlain would be equally puzzled in his office. If, as according to Mr. Arnold, the chiefs of Nonconformity are to hold equal rank with the chiefs of the State-Church, and Baron Binney is to sit in the House of Peers side by side with the Archbishop, and Charles H. Spurgeon, Bishop of the Tabernacle, is to give the "pas" only to the Bishop of Winchester when they appear at Court; and Dean Stanley himself is to walk out after Henry Varley, because the one has a larger following than the other, why, surely, then, as Sydney Smith said, "vegetables will no longer grow; and grass will cease to be green." And then, as the greatest difficulty of all, you have to gain the consent of the different religious bodies you seek to comprehend, a thing which you will never do. Lord Shaftesbury, in the name of the Evangelicals, declares that they will go in for the whole scheme of the Liberation Society rather than the shield of the State-Church shall be a blank shield, covering all opinions alike. The Ritualists, again, use still stronger language; and, although on many previous occasions both parties have threatened secession under certain contingencies, and have quietly eaten their own words when those contingencies have become realities, yet both parties are so deeply pledged in the very principles of their peculiar creeds against the fundamental idea of comprehension—freedom of inquiry—that they must go out in order to continue their existence.

The lecturer concluded with a statement of considerations which show that the downfall of State-Churches is in accordance with the advance of the times, and is inevitable. Once set free, the power of the Church of England would increase daily. In a host of country places it would quietly absorb the little meeting-houses which now chiefly existed as a protest against its injustice, apathy, and assumption. And as for the nation, they had no fears on her behalf, when by the act of disestablishment she acknowledged that common justice between man and man was the religion to which she adhered. Such an act would show, not that they as a nation ceased to care for religion, but that they revered the right much more than antiquated institutions, and desired to establish the true State-religion of justice in our

midst. Such an act might give birth to rancorous feelings and bitter words; they would come to an early and untimely death; in the long run it would bring us all closer together in the bonds of peace and goodwill.

ESTABLISHED CLERGYMEN ON THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

We last month published an extract from a private letter received from an Incumbent in the Province of Canterbury, who declared himself to be "heart and soul in favour of the disestablishment of the Church of England," and it appears that the editor of the *Liberator* has also received similar communications from other clergymen. After quoting from the letter to which we have just referred, that journal says:—

A Dorsetshire clergyman, who has been "one of the working clergy of the Church of England for a quarter of a century," has forwarded to us a copy of a letter which he addressed to the *Standard*, in reply to an article on the recent Liberation Society meetings at Bradford. We extract some passages:—

"Let any sincere member of the House of Lords, and of the Commons, only confine themselves to such facts as can be adduced to show the absolute necessity for a complete reconstruction of the Church of England, and they will not have to resort to such foundations as you point out, potato blight, dangerous substances, such as gunpowder, or devastating earthquakes, or wide-spreading pestilences. It may be very well for you to characterise any attempt to put down the present unjust system upon which the Church of England has existed for a number of years as a chance to be seized upon by Radicals, Secularists, and Roman Catholics; but, whatever ideas they may entertain on the subject, I fully believe that a day is not far distant, when a great change will take place in the government of the Church of England. Will you pretend to say, that the great gulf between the bishops of the Church of England, with seats in the House of Lords, faring sumptuously every day, and the working clergy, in too many instances, with impoverished incomes, and their wives and families dependent on charity—the result of the head of the family selecting the Church of England as his profession—has no limit? Will you pretend to say that the scandalous system with regard to the disposal of Church of England livings has no limit?"

The writer tells us that, he is sorry to say, he can supply us with "a great deal of information relative to the unjust and cruel system upon which the Church of England is governed."

A third clergyman writes to us that he concurs with "A Parson" who complains of the disabilities attaching to Roman Catholic patrons, and who asks:—"Why should Roman Catholics be the only body of Queen's subjects who cannot present to a rectory or vicarage? Why are they treated worse than Jews, Turks, and infidels, for whose conversion the newly-appointed vicar will pray next good Friday? Surely, sir, it is time the law was altered in this respect, and the disability of Roman Catholics to present to livings was removed."

A fourth clergyman—who resigned his living some years ago from his objection to some of the doctrinal opinions of the Church, writes:—"My judgment and inclination go entirely along with your endeavours. I hold it to be altogether beyond the purpose and authority of the Legislature to maintain a State-Church, or, in other words, to prefer one set of religious opinions before another."

THE BISHOPRIC OF MADAGASCAR.

It may be remembered that a short time ago the Rev. R. H. Baynes, vicar of St. Michael's, Coventry, accepted the appointment of Bishop of Madagascar from the Archbishop of Canterbury. Thereupon Mr. Baynes put himself into communication with the Church Missionary Society, and received from the Rev. H. Venn, the secretary, a letter, which concludes as follows:—

The London Missionary Society, in 1863, exhibited a truly Christian candour in welcoming episcopal missions to the districts in Madagascar traversed by their own missionaries, which by the strict law of amity might have been claimed as exclusively their field. By this arrangement the Malagasy converts have the opportunity of witnessing the form of worship and discipline in our Church, without the appearance of rivalry, or the danger of collision which would inevitably attend operations in the capital, and might easily arise if a resident bishop were on the field. In a few years the Madagascar converts will be sufficiently advanced in the knowledge of Divine things to judge for themselves what form of Church worship, discipline and government may be most suitable to the national character and habits; and so, as in the primitive Church, we may witness the natural and gradual development of the Christian ministry, instead of ecclesiastical controversies, which have been the bane of the mother Church, being propagated in the mission field. The difficulties connected with the bishopric of Honolulu afford a caution against sending a bishop into the sphere of a native Church organised upon another system.

Her Majesty can confer no jurisdiction beyond her dominions, except by the voluntary submission of the clergy to the bishop so appointed. Hence the society is expected voluntarily to place its missionaries under the new bishop, and thus to sanction a scheme which it regards as objectionable, and contrary to an implied pledge. To this the society cannot consent; it would rather submit to be driven from the island in which it has laboured with much success and blessing from above.

On these grounds the Church Missionary Society would venture to suggest that if it be still thought expedient to send an Anglican Bishop to Madagascar, it may be under an arrangement which will exclude those parts of the island which are the field of labour of the Church Missionary Society from the jurisdiction of the new Bishop, thus leaving its missionaries, as heretofore, under the Bishop of Mauritius.

In consequence of this letter, Mr. Baynes, by the advice of his diocesan, the Bishop of Worcester, came

to the decision to withdraw altogether from his nomination as bishop. In a letter to his parishioners the rev. gentleman says:—"With divisions, wranglings, and jealousies within the borders of the church herself, and with clergy labouring in the island, instructed by a committee at home to resist the authority of their own chief pastor, I fear that disappointment, scandal, and failure would inevitably ensue. Be this as it may, I now feel assured in my own mind that the great work of this large parish—a work that has been so abundantly blessed of God—presents a far stronger claim than such a position as that of missionary bishop in Madagascar, which through the recent action of the Church Missionary Society, has become doubtful indeed." Not a few will be disposed to agree with Mr. Baynes in his latest and wisest decision.

THE CONGREGATIONAL BODY.

We extract the following from the statistical summary contained in the *Congregational Year Book* for 1871, just issued:—

COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS AND UNIONS.

England	... 43	Ireland	... 1
Wales	... 16	Colonies, &c.	... 8
Scotland	... 8		
Total...	... 76		

CHURCHES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

England	... 2,045	Australia and New Zealand	... 176
Wales	... 878	South Africa and Demerara, &c.	... 12
Scotland	... 102	Mission Churches,	
Ireland	... 28	about	300
Islands of the British Seas	... 16		
Canada and British North America	... 108		

VACANT CHURCHES.

England	... 157	Ireland	... 3
Wales	... 108	Canada, &c.	... 16
Scotland	... 11	Australia	... 8
Total...	... 303		

Home Missions, Out-Stations, and Evangelistic Stations.

The number of these can be given only approximately ... 3,000

This number does not include the various schools, rooms, cottages, &c., in which Divine service is held in connection with the churches in their several localities:

MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES.

England	... 1,943	Colonies	... 236
Wales	... 393	Foreign Countries	... 164
Scotland	... 107	Native, ordained in	
Ireland	... 26	Heathen Lands	... 106*
Continent	... 6		

Total... 2,980

With Pastoral Charges ... 2,439

Without Pastoral Charges ... 561

COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES.

England	... 8	Scotland	... 1
Wales	... 3	Colonies	... 3
Institutes.			
England	... 4	Foreign	... 15
		Students in Colleges.	
England	... 220	Scotland	... 16
Wales	... 57	Colonies	... 24

Total... 317

Students in Institutes.

Bristol	... 16	St. John's Wood (Missionary)	... 7
Nottingham	... 46		
Cotton End	... 6	Foreign Countries	... 194
Total...	... 269		

THE IRISH CHURCH SURPLUS.—Mr. Maguire, M.P., having addressed a letter to Mr. Fortescue, as Irish Secretary, claiming a portion of the "Church surplus" for hospitals in Cork, Mr. Fortescue has replied that no such surplus as yet exists. The Commissioners of Church Temporalities have been obliged to avail themselves of the borrowing powers they possess to provide a fund to carry out commutation in the case of Nonconforming (Presbyterian) ministers, and in the event of the Irish Episcopal clergy agreeing this year to commute, they will have to provide for the interest of a still larger loan, with the gradual repayment of the principal. Applicants are therefore warned off for an indefinite period.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE, M.P., in addressing his constituents at Calne on Wednesday said that he should vote for Mr. Miall's motion for the disestablishment of the English Church. He believed the days of Church Establishments were numbered; the English clergy, however, deserved all praise, and he hoped Mr. Miall would bring forward the question in an unsectarian spirit. As to again opening the education question, although he was a member of the Education League, he should oppose opening the question until the present measure had had a fair trial. His lordship, alluding to Mr. Gladstone's turning to his enemies rather than his friends, hoped that the Liberal Ministry would neither coquet with Conservatives nor with the Roman Catholic party in Ireland.

WHAT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC MEMBERS EXPECT FOR NEXT SESSION.—The *Dublin Morning Mail* fixes attention upon a speech delivered by Mr. Synan, M.P., at a Papal sympathy meeting in Limerick, as exhibiting, more plainly than as yet been done, the policy of the "Irish" members and their calculations for next session. In simple words, they believe they have Mr. Gladstone pledged, by his recent letter, to effect a restoration of the temporal power of the Pope, either at Rome—if it be not possible just at present to dismiss the heretical Italians from the Eternal City—at Malta, as the next most sacred piece of European earth. On condition only of his ful-

filling this pledge is Mr. Gladstone to have the Ultramontane vote. Mr. Synan has plainly stated that the series of sympathy meetings has been held to strengthen the Premier in his policy of Papal rehabilitation.

To DISSENTERS ABOUT TO MARRY.—A Registrar of Marriages, who admits the inconsistency of those Dissenters who marry at Episcopalian places of worship, says that they are sometimes driven to do so by the state of the law. "A Dissenter wishing to be married at the Register Office, or a Dissenting chapel, has to give twenty-one days' notice if by banns, and if by licence, one clear day must elapse before the marriage can be solemnised. The Churchman has to give notice of banns, and on the fifteenth day can be married, or, if by licence, the same day the licence is applied for; no notice being required. It is not uncommon for Dissenters to leave the application until the last day, and they are then driven to adopt the course I have indicated. I am greatly surprised that this point was lost sight of when the amended Act was passed."—*Liberator*.

DISESTABLISHMENT.—It may, perhaps, be expected, that some notice should be taken in this report of Mr. Miall's announced intention of endeavouring to bring forward in the House of Commons the question of the disestablishment of the Church of England. The President and Council do not anticipate that the agitation to be raised will be of a very serious character, but they do think that the subject is one which it behoves Churchmen well to consider. It is impossible not to see that the current of public opinion, both at home and abroad, is setting strongly in the direction of a separation between things temporal and things spiritual. In such circumstances it is merely a question of prudence to watch all indications of a coming storm, the danger of which consists not so much in disestablishment itself as in its finding those whom it threatens unprepared to meet it.—*Report of the English Church Union, Dec., 1870.*

RITUALISM IN AMERICA.—An American religious newspaper tells this little story, which it is to be hoped is not true:—A certain Bishop—whose name will most likely suggest itself to many readers by the time they have finished the story, his action was so characteristic—making a visitation in a parish where a bedridden woman was to be confirmed, delayed going to see her until he found that he had not time to fulfil his original intention of visiting her bedside, and to catch a certain train which he could not afford to miss, a brilliant thought flashed into his mind. Calling the rector apart into a room, and hurriedly vesting himself in pontificalibus, the right rev. father went through with the office of confirmation, placing his hand on an imaginary head. Bidding the astonished priest to assure the afflicted woman that she had been confirmed, he rushed for the depot. There is but one Bishop in the whole American Church who could be guilty of such a piece of senseless ritualism."

THE IRISH MARRIAGE LAW.—Considerable alterations were effected in the Irish marriage law by an Act passed last session. A paper explanatory of these changes has been prepared by Dr. Ball, Q.C., M.P., Vicar-General of Armagh. From this it appears that—1. In order to a marriage by a clergyman of the disestablished Irish Church, one at least of the parties must be a Protestant Episcopalian. 2. If both parties be Protestant Episcopalian, the ceremony must be preceded by either banns, licence, or certificate of the registrar; if only one is a Protestant Episcopalian, by certificate of the registrar. 3. Marriages may still be celebrated in the same churches and chapels as before. 4. They may be solemnised at any time between eight o'clock forenoon and two o'clock in the day. 5. Licences are to be issued by persons appointed by the bishops. 6. The party applying for the licence must have resided for seven days in the district of the issuer of the licence. 7. The Act coming into operation on the 1st, and notice being required to be given to duly appointed issuer of licences seven days before it issues, no marriage by licence can be celebrated till the 9th of January. Bishops may give special licences for marriage, to be celebrated at any time or place.

THE RIGHT TO ATTEND VESTRY MEETINGS.—The inquiry of a correspondent who wishes, though not on the rate-book of his parish, to attend some important vestry meetings, induces us to call attention to an important provision in the Poor-rate Assessment and Collection Act, 1869. Section 19 is as follows:—"The overseers in making out the poor-rate shall, in every case, whether the rate is collected from the owner or the occupier, or the owner is liable to the payment of the rate instead of the occupier, enter in the occupiers' column of the rate-book the name of the occupier of every rateable hereditament, and such occupier shall be deemed to be duly rated for any qualification or franchise aforesaid; and if any overseer negligently or wilfully and without reasonable cause omits the name of the occupier of any rateable hereditament from the rate, or negligently or wilfully misstates any name therein, such overseer shall for every such omission or misstatement be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding two pounds; provided that any occupier whose name has been omitted shall, notwithstanding such omission, and that no claim to be rated has been made by him, be entitled to every qualification and franchise depending upon rating, in the same manner as if his name had not been so omitted."—*Liberator*.

MR. GLADSTONE, THE PRESBYTERY, AND THE POPE.—Mr. Gladstone's letter about the Pope's independence was brought before the Edinburgh Presbytery of the Free Church on Wednesday by Dr. Candlish, and a resolution was agreed to which, acknowledging the right of

* This includes 51 in Madagascar and South Seas whose names are not given.

Roman Catholics to civil and religious liberty, went on "most emphatically and solemnly" to protest against the doctrine or opinion that the rulers of this Protestant country may or ought to charge themselves with taking any concern about the dignity, freedom, or independence of the Pope, even on the ground of there being so many in the country willing to own his spiritual supremacy. Dr. Candlish in his speech stated that at the request of a few friends he had written to Mr. Gladstone upon the subject, and had received a most courteous reply, in which Mr. Gladstone referred him to a letter privately sent to another friend a week or ten days ago, a copy of which had been sent to him (Dr. Candlish), and after reading which the impression left on his mind was that the language used was capable of a more favourable interpretation than had been put upon it. That letter was almost, to his mind, though not altogether, satisfactory. Mr. Gladstone, in his letter to him, stated that at one time he intended to publish that private letter, but that afterwards, by the advice of his colleagues, he thought it better to abstain from such a course, and rather to await the meeting of Parliament, when he would be prepared to offer any explanations which any party in the House might think proper to require.

MR. SPURGEON ON THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—In reply to a letter in the *Record*, calling him to account for having in his Christmas Day sermon used the expression "apostate Church" in reference to the Church of England, Mr. Spurgeon says, in a letter to that newspaper:—"I have no doubt the expression objected to was used by me, but out of their connection words may or may not convey the same meaning. Should I use the expression at this moment I should mean no more or less than this, which I fear you will think very uncharitable, but it is what I feel. As I look around me, I am horrified at the widespread Popish teaching of the Established Church, and am at once surprised and indignant at the degraded form which its superstition is assuming, equaling, if not exceeding, the idolatry of the Church of Rome. This pestilent influence is carried far and wide by an able priesthood and a most active and prolific press. In view of the fearful mischief which your Church is thus doing, I do not feel that it is more than the truth to say that she has apostatised from her Protestant position. It is as painful to me to use the expression as it can be to others to hear it. At the same time I can never forget the many gracious and faithful men who remain in this Church, nor can I cease to pray for them. Towards these brethren as earnest adherents and promulgators of evangelical truth, I sincerely cherish the warmest love. In these dangerous times, when so many heresies are broad, it is most delightful to feel that common love to the grand old Gospel creates a bond of union which no ecclesiastical differences can break. I am thus in a strait betwixt two. I see around me a Church which largely teaches Popish doctrine—must I not denounce it? I see in connection with that Church some of the most earnest preachers of the Gospel—what shall I say to these? Express my opinion as to their position? I have done so, and they reply that I have done them a sore injustice. They do not see their position from my point of view. They are evidently not intentionally in a false position; by some means they have become satisfied that it is their duty to remain where they are. What then? If they are generous enough to accord me fellowship after the many sharp things which I have said, and with no pledge but that I may say them again, am I to refuse every sort of co-operation with them? It seems not to me. If there are matters in which we can unite as Christians, upon terms which do not require the least concealment on either side, thank God for it. A prayer-meeting for the revival of religion is one of these, and therefore when asked to address the assembly at the Freemasons' Hall, I cheerfully consented."

THE LAW OF PATRONAGE.—On Wednesday a meeting of "those favourable to an alteration of the Law of Patronage in the Church of Scotland" was held in Edinburgh, the Lord Provost presiding. The Rev. Dr. Maxwell Nicholson, Edinburgh, moved:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the present law of patronage in the Church of Scotland has been productive of serious evils to the Church and to the country, having more or less directly occasioned secessions from the Church, and weakened many of its congregations." Principal Shirp, St. Andrew's, seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Dalrymple, M.P., moved—"That a strong desire exists throughout the country that the communicants of a parish should have a prevailing voice in the selection of their minister, and that it is of great importance to bring the law into harmony with this desire by the abolition of the present law of patronage." The Rev. J. E. Cumming, Edinburgh, seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted. Mr. E. S. Gordon, M.P., moved—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, such a change as is proposed would produce the best effect on the ecclesiastical relations, and on the moral and religious condition, of the people of Scotland." In supporting the motion, he said that a great many persons had given their adhesion to this movement in the hope that it might have a powerful influence in bringing about a co-operation, if not an incorporation, of the different Presbyterian Churches in Scotland. The Rev. Dr. Smith, North Leith, seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted. Mr. Kinloch, jun., of Gilmerston, moved—"That petitions, in accordance with the foregoing resolutions, should be presented to both Houses of Parliament." Mr. Archibald Brown, principal clerk of session, seconded the motion, which was agreed to. In the course of the proceedings letters of apology were read from

the Marquis of Tweeddale, and Sir Robert Anstruther, M.P. In the letter from the Marquis was the following:—"I have long thought that the settlement of a minister should in the fullest sense be acceptable to the communicants and members of the church among whom he is to labour; and in exercising the patronage which the law has placed in my hands, I have always endeavoured to present an acceptable minister. I am, however, of opinion that a modification or alteration of the present law of patronage is called for, in order to secure that the wishes of the congregation may be respected in the selection of their minister. While not inclined to support the movement for female suffrage in political matters, I would propose to give an equal right to all communicants, male and female, because it is they who have satisfied their minister that have studied their Bible, and thoroughly understand and appreciate the object of their coming to the Lord's Supper, and should thus be capable of judging whether the ministrations of the presentee would be edifying to them or not. In this matter there is no community between man and woman, the spiritual welfare and happiness of the one being independent of the other. I therefore propose to give the whole of the communicants, male and female, a voice in the appointment of their minister."

man Hall received no less than eighty-one members to the fellowship of the church.

LIVERPOOL.—Chadwick Mount Chapel, Everton Valley, Liverpool, was opened about four years since, in connection with the ministry of the Rev. John Jones. The new chapel speedily became filled, and a larger building has long been felt necessary. Plans of enlargement were obtained about two years since; but the scheme was retarded until lately. 500 new sittings have been added, and there has been a corresponding enlargement of the schoolroom, and provision has been made for the future erection of side-galleries, which will afford a total of accommodation for a very large congregation. The cost of the present enlargement will be nearly 2,000*l.* The chapel stands in a district of Liverpool which contains a population of 100,000 people, very large numbers of whom go to no place of worship. The chapel was reopened on Sunday, Dec. 18, when sermons were preached to large congregations by the Revs. John Jones, T. H. Howat, and C. Birrell.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT STAMFORD HILL.—On Saturday last Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., laid the memorial stone of the new Congregational Church, which is being built at Stamford-hill, by the congregation at Harecourt, Canonbury, in conjunction with a local committee, in accordance with a scheme of church extension inaugurated in the early part of last year by that congregation. Owing to the severity of the weather the public was not invited; the interesting ceremony consequently took place in the presence of the united committees. The Rev. Dr. Raleigh (who with a coadjutor not yet chosen, is to be pastor of both churches), conducted the short religious service. Mr. Morley briefly expressed his pleasure in being privileged to take part in such a work, assuring those present that he felt great interest in this peculiar feature of individual church life, as he felt sure, if it should prove successful, it would show how churches could give relief to overtasked pastors; but they should do so by church extension, and thus give new localities a share in the privileges which they enjoy. He believed also that strong churches in all large towns would be ready to follow this example if successful. The whole outdoor service did not occupy more than twenty minutes.

BOWLING CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, BRADFORD.—On Monday evening, December 26, a large gathering of the members and friends of the Congregational Church, Bowling, was held in their schoolroom, Frances-street, to celebrate their usual Christmas festival. More than usual interest was felt upon the occasion, as the chairman of the meeting, the Rev. J. K. Nuttall, was able to announce that the whole cost of the enlarging of the chapel and the building of the new schools, amounting to more than 2,000*l.*, had been either paid or promised. A bazaar was held in St. George's Hall last May, on purpose to remove the debt, but the amount realised fell short of the sum required by about 160*l.*, towards which Messrs. Aldermen Brown and Law had promised 50*l.* each, and John Crossley, Esq., 10*l.* A few months ago it was determined to try and get the 160*l.* before the close of the year. In answer to this appeal Sir Titus Salt, Bart., very kindly promised 50*l.*, and the remainder of the sum needed was either paid or promised by kind and sympathising friends. Bowling is a missionary station, built in a much neglected district. The chapel was only built about five and a half years ago, and now there was a church of 136 members, an increasing congregation, and flourishing Sunday-school with 600 scholars and 50 teachers and officers, and an efficient day school, divided into upper and infant schools, under Government inspection.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, BEWICK-STREET CHAPEL.—The annual Christmas tea-meeting in connection with this place of worship was held on Tuesday evening, Dec. 27, when there was a large attendance of the church and congregation. After tea, the Rev. W. Walters, minister of the chapel, took the chair. A hymn having been sung, Mr. H. A. Wilkinson offered prayer. The chairman, in his opening address, said they had much reason to be thankful for God's goodness to them during another year. He referred to the large congregations attending the regular services; to the recent additions to the church; to the state of the Sunday-schools and Tract Society; to the success of the Bible Class and Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society, both of which were under his care; and closed by an earnest exhortation to renewed consecration to Christ, and greater diligence in his service. —The Rev. Dr. Angus, President of Regent's Park College, then delivered an admirable lecture on "America, as seen in 1870." For upwards of two hours the lecturer kept up the attention and interest of the audience, as he recounted the experiences of crossing the Atlantic; what he saw in New York, Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco; his interviews with the Shakers at Mount Lebanon, and the Mormons at Utah; and furnished a series of most graphic sketches of the commerce, religious life, and educational advantages of the United States.—At the close a vote of thanks to Dr. Angus, on the motion of Mr. H. Angus, seconded by Mr. G. Angus, and supported by Mr. H. A. Wilkinson, was carried by acclamation.—Mr. J. Bradburn moved, and Mr. Jonathan Angus seconded, a vote of thanks to those who had given the tea, and the ladies who had presided at the tables, and this also was passed heartily. During the evening the chapel choir sang several pieces. The meeting, which in all respects was a most successful one, closed with the Benediction.

MR. SPURGEON AND HIS COLLEGE.—The fifteenth anniversary of the Metropolitan Tabernacle Pastors' College, in connection with the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon's Tabernacle, was celebrated on Thursday evening in

We regret to hear that the Rev. Dr. Spence is now very seriously ill.

SURREY CHAPEL.—On Wednesday evening last, after a solemn and impressive service, the Rev. New-

the schoolrooms attached to the chapel, when many of the students and friends assembled to tea. The usual annual meeting was afterwards held in the chapel, when the chair was taken by the Rev. James Spurgeon, who briefly alluded to the success of the work in connection with the college. The Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, after giving a short account of the origin of the college, read a report for the past year, by which it appeared that the following settlements of students from their college had been made since Christmas, 1869:—Mr. T. D. Cameron, at Lochee, near Dundee; W. Fuller, Strudley, Warwickshire; W. G. Hall, Appleford, Devon; W. J. Manners, Battersea; W. J. Smith, Westmancote, Worcester-shire; Miss Clarke, Ashford, Kent; Young, Maidstone; Dinnington, Redbourne, Heris; Priter, Middlesex; Wheatley, Dorking; Norris, Bedminster, Bristol; M' Hinney, gone to America; Blenkin, Prince's Risborough; Pipes, North Shields; Mongin, Glastonbury, Scotland; Hills, Oxford; White, Enfield; W. H. Smith, Tenterden; Porter, Caxton, Cambridge; J. Smith, Winslow. In addition to these there are twenty-five students preaching at various places with the view of supplying the pastoral regularly. The tutors' reports were exceedingly satisfactory. After the reading of the report, several of the students addressed the meeting. Mr. Spurgeon then delivered a lecture on "Stones." In the course of his lecture he drew many lessons from the various kinds of stones, and in order to illustrate his symbols he exhibited specimens of the millstones used by the Hebrews to grind their corn, and the kind of stone and sling used by David when he slew Goliath. He also exhibited specimens of diamonds and precious stones. In the course of his remarks upon these he said it is stated that there are few crowns in Europe but what have them stoned among the precious ones, in order to make up the pattern designed by the maker, but in the Crown of England all are precious gems, and no sham one is to be found. From this he hoped all would draw a lesson, and take care that they themselves would be as pure stones in the crown of their Maker. After the lecture a number of dissolving views were exhibited, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

DUNDEE.—On the afternoon of Thursday, the 8th of December, the Rev. Charles Short, late of Sheffield, was inducted as pastor of Ward Chapel, Dundee. The Rev. Robert Lang presided; and the following clergymen were on the platform:—The Rev. Messrs. D. Russell, Glasgow; J. Robbie, Dumfries; J. Masson, C. A. Piper, and G. Campbell, Dundee; J. Tait, Newport; J. Miller, Blairgowrie; W. D. Knowles, Perth; G. Moir, Letham; P. Whyte, Montrose; J. Currie, St. Andrew's; D. L. M'Corkindale, Forfar; also the deacons and leading members of the congregation. In the evening a soirée was held in the Kinnaird Hall, and was attended by nearly 800 members of the congregation. The Rev. Mr. Short presided, and among those on the platform were:—The Rev. Dr. Watson, Dr. M'Gavin, D. Russell, J. C. Baxter, A. O. Laird, J. Currie, James Ewing, Francis Clark, James Robbie, John Masson, Peter Whyte, C. A. Piper, George Moir, D. M'Corkindale, George Gilfillan, D. Macgregor, &c. Mr. Short, in the course of his address, alluded to Mr. Spurgeon's remark that the Church of England was being honey-combed with Popery, and that the Nonconformist bodies were being riddled with philosophical infidelity. That statement was, he believed, an exaggeration, and a very great exaggeration—(applause)—and he had to say that the heart of the Nonconformist ministry was sound to the core. (Applause.) But there were men who took a great delight in saying things that were shocking and startling, and by these means they acquired a temporary reputation. He did not believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was ever preached more intelligently than at the present time, and certainly they would need no disavowal from him of sympathy with philosophical infidelity. (Applause.) There were men among them who were greatly frightened at the speculations of modern science. He quite welcomed such men into the field of science—as Mr. Huxley, Mr. Tyndall, and others of their stature—for he believed that the world would reap almost unmixed good from all true science. (Applause.) It did not become any one to be frightened into panic because certain men of science might make rash statements which they could not substantiate. The truth would remain as the residuum. There had been times when theology had been terribly rash, when men in the name of God and Christ had said things in the pulpit, and maintained them with some show of plausibility and argument, that had shocked and distressed every hearer; but they did not on that account forget the New Testament, or lose their confidence in Jesus Christ. He believed there could not be any real contradiction between the science that there was to be found in the investigations of nature and that highest science of all—the knowledge of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Applause.) His standpoint was there, and he did not believe, whatever progress the world might make in future ages, that the time would come when it would be possible to assail that spotless nature, to disprove that Divine mission, or rob Him of any glory that belonged to Him. The dangers of their day were not dangers arising out of speculations in science. The dangers with which the Church of Christ had to grapple were the ignorance and the vice of what were called the masses. They would have plenty of work to do, not in repelling any false theology or false science, but in getting tenderer hearts and more pitiful minds for the misery and the sin in which so many of their brethren and sisters were plunged. The dangers with which they were threatened were dangers that were eating into the heart of their commerce and trade. Gambling and dishonesty, the dreadful strife

of competition, were making people forfeit conscience and heaven, and they, as men engaged in the business of the world, and as members of the Church, should see to it that they did what they could to keep the glory untarnished of the Christian profession, to rescue the Christian profession from the many stigmas thrown on it from the quarters he had indicated.

Correspondence.

SUPPLYING ARMS TO BELLIGERENTS— ENGLAND'S WORST ENEMIES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Is it not a subject of deep regret that while, as Englishmen, we are everywhere mourning the slaughter and sufferings of vast armies, sympathising with the sorrows of two great nations, and longing for the hour that may end the deadly strife, there are yet other Englishmen earnestly engaged in furnishing the means of materially prolonging these awful calamities. Can no expression be given of the grief, vexation and shame which numbers of us are feeling on this subject?

We hoped that in the gift of over a quarter of a million sterling, and the self-denying labours of many of our countrymen to mitigate the sufferings of the wounded of both armies alike, and of the devastated peasants of France, we had sufficiently evinced our real feeling under events so unparalleled. It may be so with the immediate recipients of our aid, and time may produce a just appreciation of our conduct by the nations we seek to benefit.

But it is notoriously otherwise at present, and in the view of one army, at least, and perhaps of the whole nation, our kindly sentiments and generous efforts are belied, and we are judged to have virtually violated our neutrality, and to have shown active partisanship, in a degree that produces not merely irritation or vexation, but dangerous exasperation. And why? Because, in spite of all our sympathy, we are subjected to the charge of an unsympathising, selfish, and faithless policy, through the greed of a few individuals, who, if they can but enrich themselves, are reckless of all the suffering they help to promote, and of all the horrors they contribute to prolong. Ought a whole nation to be thus compromised? Has not the experience of the American war prejudiced and damaged us enough? Are we to be forever exposed to such misjudgment, and the loss of our friendly relations with nations we esteem, and with whom we would gladly cement friendship and mutual good offices, incurring coldness, contempt, or positive hatred, where gratitude is our just due?

If we are not in a position to declare that our Government, on the House of Commons, did wrong in not prohibiting this wretched traffic, can we not at least protest against our being implicated, as a nation, in the crime of a few? For what less than a crime can it be to furnish the appliances of slaughter and destruction, to be used against a nation whom we call friends, and whom we acknowledge to have been mainly in the right? Nor would the crime be less whichever of the combatants was injured by it. Will not the sad loss of life and frightful injuries in the late explosion at Birmingham spoil the pleasure of the manufacturers in their unholy gains, unless indeed they have become callous to all misery.

But shall we never make the voice of a Christian nation to be so heard as to make it illegal or impossible for individuals to make a vile gain by furnishing munitions of war, or for a Government to maintain, for the sake of a revenue, however large, the ruinous, body and soul-destroying opium traffic, by which we are at this moment doing the utmost wrong to the physical, social, and moral life of the vast Chinese empire, whose people we are depraving, degrading, and enervating to the utmost of our power? If we may not hope, by the expression of a righteous public opinion, now to repair the damage done to our reputation in respect to this war, let us on one hand contribute yet more earnestly to the relief of present sufferers, and on the other, seek to awaken the national conscience to a right sense of the requirements of humanity and enlightened Christianity in the future. I do not overlook the reply with which I am sure to be met, that we are not alone in this matter, and that in fact America, professedly neutral as ourselves, is doing immensely more to tender aid on one side, and inflict damage on the other, in this conflict, and that Germany regards it not. Alas! if it is lawful to justify wrong-doing by the conduct of others, when is any evil to be brought to an end?

Let us at least set ourselves right, and offer a Christian example, thus promoting a better public and international opinion. Full well, too, do we know that Germany accepts no such excuse from us, that she has looked for better treatment on our part, and indeed that the mistakes, whether ignorantly or perversely, but at any rate extensively, weapons supplied by America for English ones. Should any one suggest that remonstrance is now too late, and might wound French susceptibilities, surely it may even yet allay the jealous soreness of the Germans; and for the French let us redouble our legitimate good offices in the relief of their peasants and wounded men.

G. L.

EVANGELICAL CONTINENTAL SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Can you find room for the enclosed appeal? I sincerely hope that it may move our friends to supply us with the means of relieving our distressed brethren.

Yours truly,
J. SHEDLCCK.

7, Blomfield-street, Jan. 3, 1871.

Paris, Dec. 27, 1870.

My dear Friend,—We are at the end of 1870, and quite unable to pay the quarterly salary due to our labourers. They must be in an awful distress, especially those in the Yonne department, which is invaded and perhaps ruled by the Prussians. We have no news at all from it—no means to know anything about our stations. Therefore, my dear friend, our committee decided to entrust to your brotherly help the relief of these dear labourers so terribly afflicted. Here is the detail of the sums due to the several stations:

Sens ...	1,225f.
Auxerre ...	1,400f.
Tonnerre ...	400f.
St. Florentin ...	350f.
Avallon ...	603f.

There are besides two sums of rent amounting to 985f.

8,975f.

If you were disposed, my dear friend, to this work of relief to real sufferers in the Lord's field, you would only have to correspond with M. le Pasteur Antonim, à Auxerre (Yonne). He would undertake to send to each member its share of the total sum; and we wrote to him about it, as he lives in the chief town of the department.

We ask you for much, my dear friend, but our distress is great. We are smitten by the Lord in such a measure, that we expect from Him a proportionate measure of help. We know, as He is great in His chastisement, He will be great in the blessing which such trials prepare. We commit our cares to you. May the Lord bless you all most abundantly. We suffer much; the want of meat enfeebles even the strongest. Mortality is awful—2,781 last week. Cold inflicts upon us a terrible pain, as we could not get a pound of coal or coke for any price whatever, and wood costs tenfold its former price. We are drifting to much greater suffering, as our politicians will not dream of surrendering. God have mercy upon us!

I remain, my dear friend,
Very sincerely yours,
G. FISCH.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.

SECOND B.A. AND SECOND B.Sc. EXAMINATIONS.

EXAMINATION FOR HONOURS.

(B.A. AND B.Sc. CONJOINTLY.)

MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

SECOND CLASS.

Henry, Jeremiah, B.A. ... Private study.

LOGIC AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY.

FIRST CLASS.

*Fison, James, B.A. ... University College.

*Lord, John William, B.A. ... University College.

SECOND CLASS.

Brewer, William Henry

Brooks, B.A. ... Private study.

*Aveling, Frederick Wilkins, B.A. ... University and New Colls.

*Nicholson, Joseph

Shield, B.A. ... New College.

THIRD CLASS.

Badland, Charles Davis, B.A. ... Univ. & Manch. New Colls.

Chapple, Frederic, B.A. ... King's & University Colls.

Addyman, James Wilson, B.A. ... Wesley College, Sheffield.

(B.A. ONLY.)—CLASSICS.

FIRST CLASS.

Rushbrooke, William

George St. John's Col., Cambridge.

Fison, James University College.

SECOND CLASS.

Williams, Hugh Bala and University Colls.

Collins, John Patrick

Aloysius Stonyhurst College.

ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY.

FIRST CLASS.

Marshall, Arthur Milnes

(Prize) Private study.

Lord, John William ... University College.

Waterhouse, Charles

Henry University and New Colls.

SECOND CLASS.

Dunn, George Simmonds

Private study.

Chapple, Frederic King's & University Colls.

(B.Sc. ONLY.)—CHYMISTRY.

FIRST CLASS.

*Routledge, Robert ... Owens College.

Martin, Henry Newell ... Christ's, Cam., and University College, London.

SECOND CLASS.

Clowes, Frank Coll. of Chym. & Priv. study.

GEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY.

FIRST CLASS.

Roberts, Robert Davies ... University College.

ZOOLOGY.

FIRST CLASS.

Martin, Henry Newell ... Christ's, Cam., and University College, London.

Aveling, Edward Bibbins University College.

The total number of herrings landed at Great Yarmouth during the season is calculated to have been about 240,000,000.

* Equal.

† Merit of Scholarship.

‡ Disqualified by age for Scholarship.

§ Scholarship.

|| Obtained the number of marks qualifying for the Scholarship.

THE WAR.

BOMBARDMENT OF THE PARIS FORTS.

The King has sent the following telegram to Queen Augusta, dated December 30:—"Our bombardment of the fortified Mont Avron on the 27th inst., with seventy-six guns, has silenced the enemy's guns yesterday and to-day." The following despatch has also been received from Versailles, dated Dec. 29:—"Mont Avron has been occupied by the 12th Army Corps, after a bombardment of one day. The French troops left behind them many gun-carriages, rifles, and dead soldiers. On the 28th inst., the siege artillery on the east front of Paris succeeded, after having on the previous day silenced Fort Avron, in effectually bombarding the railway-station at Noisy-le-Sec, and also in dislodging the enemy's artillery in position at Bondy. Our losses were three men. The enemy's detachments who were still outside the fort after its occupation on the 29th withdrew to Paris. We lost no men. A despatch of the 30th reports as follows:—

"Great quantities of artillery ammunition were found on Mont Avron, as well as two 24-pounders which had been spiked. Two companies advanced as far as the village of Rosny. Our loss was one man wounded. The French lost seventeen officers, whose dead bodies were found in the fort. A despatch from Versailles, dated the 2nd, says:—"The bombardment of the enemy's positions on the north-east front of Paris was successfully continued both yesterday and the previous day. The enemy has speedily evacuated his advanced posts on this side of the front. The guns of Forts Nogent, Rosny, and Noisy were silent yesterday."

The following telegraphic despatch, published in the *Daily News* of Monday, contains further details relative to the bombardment:—

VERSAILLES, Dec. 29.

The cannonade on the French outworks at Avron, begun two days ago, will probably continue to-day. It is important, as being the first attack by German artillery on a position of Paris. It is not an attack on the city itself, nor what is popularly meant by bombarding a place. If the German leaders wish to try such a method of coercion, they must fire upon the high ground of Clamart and Meudon, south of Paris. The destruction of military bridges over the Seine at Villeneuve St. George by blocks of ice causes but slight delay in bringing supplies from the railway at Lagny to the troops south of Paris, for there is a good bridge at Corbeil, a few miles up stream. At Villeneuve the ice is packed together so firmly that men and horses can cross from side to side. The severe winter, causing embarrassment to the pontoon trains, gives a partial excuse to the French Government for blowing up so many stone bridges. In ordinary times pontoon bridges are established in place of those destroyed.

Dec. 30.

The first German attack on the outworks of Paris has been brilliantly successful, as far as the silencing, and, as we now hear, subsequent occupation of Avron are concerned. This redoubt, established in front of the original French line on a hillock east of Rosny, was cannonaded by powerful batteries, and, having been silenced, was afterwards seized by the besiegers and may perhaps be held in spite of the fire from the forts. Public opinion at home is urging German commanders to additional efforts. It would be indiscreet to speak of the state of things to the southward of Paris in relation to a possible bombardment. All that can be said is that the besiegers are prepared on many points; and though the bombardment of the inhabited part of Paris is not thought of for the moment, yet a sharp artillery duel with the forts is likely to occur in a few days. The Germans own that the French guns are formidable, but they consider that their own artillery is quite equal to the task, should it be expedient to silence any or all of the forts.

LIVRY, Dec. 29.

The French batteries were pounded out of Mont Avron last night, and the plateau was visited by German infantry patrols. Its regular occupation to-night is possible. Other German batteries are ready elsewhere. On the north-east the French seem still to be hankering after what is now more than ever impossible, a sortie via Le Bourget. A deserter to-day reports that Ducrot is residing in Drancy, where also are four batteries of naval guns, three batteries of 12-pounders, and one battery of 19 pounders. Some breech-loaders and two batteries of mitrailleuses are all pointed towards Le Bourget. But their possible effect is nullified by the German batteries at Rainsy. Deserters report that Le Bourget is to be again attacked in two days. German batteries were to-day engaged with Fort Rosny. There was very hard hitting on both sides to seemingly little purpose.

An official despatch, dated Monday, says:—"The bombardment of the hostile positions before the north-east front of Paris on the 31st of December and yesterday is being successfully continued. The enemy has hastily evacuated his advanced positions before this front. The fire of Forts Nogent, Rosny, and Noisy was silenced yesterday."

The following is a Berlin telegram, dated Monday:—"A determination is supposed to exist at Versailles to bombard Paris until peace is concluded. The news that three of the eastern forts have been silenced has produced here a conviction that the capitulation of the city is only a question of a few days."

INSIDE PARIS.

A despatch from Paris, dated Dec. 30, says:—"The mayors of the various arrondissements of Paris had a meeting yesterday, when M. Jules Favre presided. The meeting lasted eight hours. The defence of Paris was discussed, as well as the conduct of certain members of the Government. Delescluze and

his friends severely attacked General Trochu, and MM. Favre and Picard, but moderate views prevailed. The meeting restricted itself to the expression of a wish that the military operations should be carried on with all possible energy and activity. No pigeon has arrived here for ten days. It is stated that Malmaison has been destroyed by the fire from the guns of Mont Valérien. The evacuation of the Plateau Avron has caused a certain exaction, but no disorders have occurred."

The "Besieged Resident" of the *Daily News* in Paris, in order to form an opinion as to the condition of the poorer classes, went into some of the back slums in the neighbourhood of the Boulevard de Cligny. His report is as follows:—

The distress is terrible. Women and children, half starved, were seated at their doorsteps, with hardly clothes to cover them decently. They said that, as they had neither firewood nor coke, they were warmer out of doors than indoors. Many of the National Guards, instead of bringing their money home to their families, spend it in drink; and there are many families, composed entirely of women and children, who, in this land of bureaucracy, are apparently left to starve while it is decided to what category they belong. The Citizen Moltu, the ultra-Democratic mayor, announced that in his arrondissement all left-handed marriages are to be regarded as valid, and the left-handed spouses of the National Guards are to receive the allowance which is granted to the legitimate wives of these warriors. But a new difficulty has arisen. Left-handed polygamy prevails to a great extent among the Citizen Moltu's admirers. Is a lady who has five husbands entitled to five rations, and is a lady who only owns the fifth of a National Guard to have only one-fifth of a ration? These are questions which the Citizen Moltu is now attempting to solve. A few days ago Madame Hamelin was discovered dead in bed in a garret of Belleville, of cold and starvation. Her husband had been, under Louis Philippe, ambassador to Constantinople. I went to see yesterday what was going on in the house of a friend of mine in the Avenue de l'Impératrice who has left Paris. The servant who was in charge told me that up there they had been unable to obtain bread for three days, and that the last time that he had presented his ration ticket he had been given about half-an-inch of cheese. 'How do you live, then?' I asked. After looking mysteriously round to see that no one was watching us, he took me down into the cellar, and pointed to some meat in a barrel. 'It is half a horse,' he said, in the tone of a man who is showing some one the corpse of his murdered victim. 'A neighbouring coachman killed him, and we salted him down and divided it.' Then he opened a closet in which sat a huge cat. 'I am fattening her up for Christmas Day,' he observed.

In the first rush of the French on Le Bourget, on the 21st, when they came on with daring and rapidity, about sixty men and an officer of the Queen Elizabeth Regiment were taken prisoners. Among the number was an ambulance assistant, whom the French sent back the next day, in terms of the Geneva Convention, and who gave a correspondent of the *Daily News* some interesting details of what he saw during his brief captivity:—

The prisoners were taken into St. Denis, and temporarily placed in a house with sentries over them. They were treated with the greatest humanity, amply supplied with coffee, sugar, wine, and bread. There was also given them abundance of flesh, but it was candidly owned that the meat was horseflesh. The French officers came among the Prussian prisoners, and asked them with great solicitude whether they had any cigars. An exchange was effected, the Germans giving cigars for cognac, of which there seemed to be great plenty. A party of St. Denis ladies, dressed with the utmost elegance, came also to see the prisoners, and bound also besides the gratification of their curiosity on an acquisitive errand. 'Had Messieurs les Prussiens any bacon in their knapsacks?' If so, the ladies would be glad to buy it of them. Only two fellows had any, and they gallantly made a present of it to the fair inquirers, who became very complimentary then as to the personal appearance of the captives. 'What great, huge, fine men these Prussians are to be sure,' remarked one lady. 'Yes, and just compare them with our little morsels of fellows,' added another, pointing to the five-feet-nothing sentry who was on duty over the stalwart guardsmen. Not unnaturally the 'little morsel' in question felt aggrieved at this observation, and his irritation took the form of turning the ladies out. My informant saw nothing of any privations during his sojourn in St. Denis; but then he was there only for a few hours, and owns his opportunities were not great.

Relative to the endurance of the Parisians, a correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says:—"I was talking, a few days ago, to Mr. Washburne, the American Minister, and he expressed so accurately the sentiments which our present situation suggests, that I cannot refrain from repeating his words. He said: 'It would not in the least surprise me to see Paris hold out till the 1st of February or even longer. Her resistance up to the present hour seems to me more marvellous than will the prolongation of that resistance for six weeks, or even two months longer. As for want, privation, and suffering, they have, to my certain knowledge, been actively at work among us for the last two months. But, nevertheless, in no class of society, and among no French families of which I hear the sentiments, do I ever hear one word breathed in favour of peace, or even of an armistice. In a city which at night is as black as a wolf's mouth, you may walk about at any hour of the night or morning with greater safety than you can in the suburbs of London or New York during the most tranquil times. Whatever may have happened outside the walls of Paris, no one can deny that inside our walls the attitude and behaviour of the French metropolis have, during these last trying three months, been little less than sublime.'" Another correspondent writes:—"Every man knows that we are approaching the end of our provisions. Nevertheless, the Government put forth a proclamation a few days ago, in which it said, 'The day when our

supplies will become insufficient is, happily, still far removed.' This proclamation imposes upon no one but the very poor and the very ignorant. Their condition is already so abject, their sufferings are so poignant, that misery renders them unable to think or reason. But the talk in all the *cafés* and restaurants is, that under no conceivable circumstances can our supplies outlast the 15th of January—and that, perhaps, they will not much outlast the 1st. My own impression is that no one, not even General Trochu, or any member of the Provisional Government, knows the exact truth; but we all know that the end, although not immediately at hand, cannot, as the Government pretends, be still far removed."

The following is an extract from a balloon letter from Paris, dated the 21st inst., written by the daughter of Pastour Armand Delille, a Protestant minister, well known to English residents. It is as follows:—"I cannot let Christmas Day pass without sending you a line containing a thousand wishes for your happiness during the coming year, and good news of your poor besieged cousins. We are all very well, and not one bit discouraged at the length of the siege. All we want is to make it last as long as possible—at least till our armies outside are ready, and our enemies tired out. Of course, we are deprived of many comforts, but we do not suffer; and as we are quite ready to suffer for our France, you can imagine that we have nothing to complain of so far. We are far from dying of hunger, but of course have little variety in the way of food. How would you order your dinner if you had no mutton, no veal, no fresh beef, no potatoes, no eggs, no fowls, no fish, and as many other things? Chickens are dreadfully scarce, and a small one costs 25s. or 30s.; eggs are scarcer still, and cost at least 15d. a piece. Fortunately, we have plenty of horses left, and now we are so accustomed to horse that I can scarcely tell the difference between it and beef. We have rice, macaroni, chocolate, preserves, a little salad, and now and then a little salt beef. We are getting so used to all this that we feel perfectly satisfied. I can assure you we Parisians are brave folks, full of hope and courage; and to see how united all Paris is, it is a grand and never-to-be-forgotten sight. The Prussians are fighting such a monstrous war, their ambition is base, and, on the other hand, our cause is now such a just and holy one, that, sooner or later, they will have to suffer for all that they are doing now."

Madame Chenay, sister-in-law of Victor Hugo, has received the following letter from him by *ballon monté*:—"All is going on well here. Paris continues to be heroic. We are eating the flesh of horses and we shall eat the flesh of rats. All Paris is on foot, night and day, for the fight. Charles and Victor (the poet's two sons) are cannoniers, as also Meurice and Vacquerie (two of their friends, Paris littérateurs). I shall at the first firing repair to the ramparts. We can hold out yet at least three months. France is rising, and Prussia will be thrust back. If I depart living from the siege of Paris, I shall, in returning to Guernsey, recommence my work of the forty poor children, and I shall begin by giving them a little *fête* to compensate them for not having had their Christmas anniversary this year, through the fault of the King of Prussia. We are all well. We embrace you tenderly, and, hoping to see you soon—courage, dear little sister—Victor Hugo."

SPEECH OF KING WILLIAM.

At the New Year's reception, held at the Palace of Versailles on the 1st, the King of Prussia made the following speech:—"Great events must have passed to unite us on such a day and at such a place. I owe it to your heroism and to your perseverance, as well as to the bravery of the troops, that we have achieved such a success. But we have not yet reached our goal; important tasks are still before us ere we arrive at an honourable and lasting peace. Such a peace will be ensured if you continue to perform deeds such as have led us to this point. Then we can confidently look to the future for what God in His gracious will may destine for us."

After the reception there was a grand banquet. The King, in welcoming the new year, said he looked back on the past year with gratitude, and upon that then commencing with hope. He thanked the German Princes for the aid they had rendered him in carrying on the war. In reply, the Grand Duke of Baden said the Prince regarded His Majesty as the supreme head of the German Empire.

THE WAR IN OTHER QUARTERS.

General Manteuffel has driven the Army of the North under the guns of Lille, and has taken more prisoners. But he has now retired towards Amiens, and General Faidherbe has again advanced as far as Vitry, and proposes to assume the offensive. The Germans have, it is said, been reinforced by the Saxons before Paris, and occupy the villages about Bassanne, where the chaussée from Amiens forks to Arras and Cambrai. From the detailed account given of the battle of Pont-Noyelles we learn that Manteuffel moved the 8th Corps and cavalry alone against Faidherbe; that the latter's real position was not reached, and that the effort to outflank it failed; that the French "fought excellently, and great credit is due to their artillery"; that the Germans of one regiment certainly were left for some time without any cartridges in the village of Querrieux, which they had taken, having fired off all their rounds; and that the French main force was so well posted that the German cavalry could not be used against it. From the 1st Corps of Manteuffel not being employed—indeed, it would appear that Goeben actually commanded throughout the action—it appears that Faidherbe failed in so

much of his object as was bound up with the total relief of Normandy from its German garrison.

General Manteuffel announces that five battalions of the 1st Division encountered on the 31st, near Rouen, on the left bank of the Seine, superior hostile forces, which had advanced from the district of Briare to Moulineaux and Grande Couronne. These forces were partly dispersed and partly driven into the strong fortress of Robert le Diable, which was stormed by the German troops. The enemy lost numerous guns, and about 100 prisoners, including apparently the commanders of the Francs-tireurs. France claims this engagement as a victory.

Dijon, having been hastily evacuated by General Werder, has been occupied by the Garibaldians. General Cramer, with a large French force, pressed him close, and he has been obliged to evacuate Gray after a severe engagement with Francs-tireurs. Fresh German troops from the Rhine were coming up, which will prevent the raising of the siege of Belfort, the garrison of which has made a successful sortie.

A body of troops from Le Mans has driven back a German force, according to General Chanzy, and occupied a strong position at Vendôme. But according to the account on the other side the French attack was repulsed, and four guns captured.

General Chanzy is preparing to resume the offensive. He has now some 140,000 men at Le Mans, a large number of them raw recruits.

A letter, published in the *Times* of Wednesday, from an English officer who was with General Chanzy in the great four days' fight, from the 7th to the 11th December, declares that the want of good shoes is one of the chief reasons for the number of prisoners and stragglers captured from General Chanzy. This letter is most respectful to General Chanzy and his army. It seems that even as early as the 8th December a cannonade from the left or south bank of the Loire was directed against General Chanzy in aid of the Duke of Mecklenburg's attack, and yet he held his ground for three whole days, and assumed the offensive on the 9th and 10th. This English officer speaks of the conduct of the German troops in Beaugency as scandalous. "All the houses in the suburbs and the tobaccoconists' and confectioners' shops were plundered." "The Brandenburg troops seemed most systematic in their proceedings, and quietly broke open houses in the market-place, in the presence of their officers." The English officer made acquaintance with a German officer at Beaugency, who told him that "he had lost in seven days ninety out of the 160 men of his company, and that in his opinion the Loire army had fought better than any army he had seen, better even than Bazaine's army at Metz."

General Chanzy has sent a spirited protest to the German commander at Vendôme against the forced contributions and plunder authorised at St. Calais, a town which has, said General Chanzy, treated the German sick and wounded very kindly; and asserting that he had not been defeated, as the Germans alleged; that he had fought and held in check the Duke of Mecklenburg's army from the 4th December till his arrival at Le Mans, and that he intends to pursue the struggle "à outrance, without truce or mercy."

Of the movements of Bourbaki little is known. He is supposed, with 90,000 men, to be advancing towards Dijon upon the enemy's communications.

The fortress of Mezières, on the Belgian frontier, which has been a refuge for bands of free-shooters, the "wild boars of Ardennes," &c., was bombarded on Saturday and capitulated on Monday, when the Germans took possession.

THE PRUSSIAN SEIZURE OF ENGLISH SHIPS.

Thirty-nine men of the crews of the seven British ships sunk in the Seine by the Prussians had arrived at the Sailors' Home in Wellclose-square on Friday, where they have been ordered to remain by the Board of Trade pending official proceedings. Mr. William Mingay, mate of the Sylph, and the mate of the Alice, both of Sunderland, have made statements detailing the circumstances attending the seizure of their vessels. From their statements it would appear that a French gunboat going up the Seine sighted a Prussian detachment advancing along the banks, and fired into them, killing 150. This caused a certain commotion among the Prussians, and it was, no doubt, with a view to put a stop to the movements of the gunboats in the river that the Prussians resolved to sacrifice the British ships. The manner in which the Prussians took possession of the Sylph is described by Mr. Mingay as follows:—

The Sylph was at Rouen on Saturday week in the river, when a detachment of about thirty or forty Prussian soldiers, headed by an officer, boarded her from a steam-tug. The Sylph had discharged her cargo of coal, and was taking in ballast. The men had, unfortunately for themselves, as it ultimately turned out, been paid. The Prussian officer addressed Captain Ramsdale, the owner of the vessel, and the mate, in a mixture of French and English. Striking his hand on the companion ladder, he said, "Me must have your ship!" Captain Ramsdale, pointing to the flag, said, "You shall not have my ship; it is an English ship." The Prussian officer, whose men had at once proceeded to cut the ropes that tied her to her anchor, roared out, "Me don't care if she is English, or French, or Dutch, or Norwegian; me want her to couler her in the river." He repeated the French word *coulter* (to sink) several times, and announced his intention to seize the brigantine, whether its captain would permit him or not. During this animated altercation the utmost confusion prevailed on board, the soldiers proceeding to knock holes in the bottom of the vessel. The captain cried out to the officer, "If you want my ship, pay me the £2,000 she's worth." "Yes," said the officer, "I will." He then produced a printed form, and, calling for pen and

ink, pointed to a vacant place on it, and directed the captain to fill it in, which he did. The form seemed to be an order on the Prussian Government. During the time the paper was being filled up, the sailors were trying to save what they could of clothes and money, but without much success, for in less than ten minutes from the boarding of the vessel the sailors were hurried over the sides into a boat and cut adrift. A good deal of their clothing was left on board. The officer stepped on the tug, leaving some soldiers in charge of the Sylph; these men hauled down the British flag (they had previously ordered the captain to do so, but he had refused), and they trampled on it and wiped their feet on it, making remarks as they did so in German. They then floated her down the river. They did not sink her immediately—in fact, not till the next morning—but, getting drunk on the ship's stores, set her partially on fire. Though the captain had received a paper promising him 2,000l. for his ship, the sailors had received no compensation for their losses. When they got on shore at Rouen they reported themselves to the British Consul, who went to the Prussian authorities and remonstrated. Through his exertions two omnibuses were procured, and the men were despatched *en route* for Dieppe. When they got to Colbec, between twelve and one at night, they were stopped in the bitter cold, the snow lying thick on the ground, by a body of Prussian soldiers, who ordered them to get down. Presenting the points of their bayonets, and rudely vociferating, they directed the sailors to undo their bundles. The mate distinctly affirmed that the Prussians took not only the men's tobacco, but part of their clothing and even their money; he himself was robbed of several pounds' worth of clothes as well as his wages. The other men were likewise pillaged. One unfortunate sailor, while being compelled to lower down some luggage from the top of the vehicle for the Prussians to overhaul, slipped, and, falling to the ground, got concussion of the brain. He had to be left behind at Colbec. Ultimately they were allowed to resume their journey. When they arrived at Dieppe, the Consul and the English Chaplain received them very kindly, and gave them 1s. each to buy their dinners with at Newhaven. Having been deprived by the Prussians of nearly everything they possessed, the poor men had nothing to eat from the time they arrived at Newhaven until their arrival in London. Thus they lost not only their employment, but all their wages and their clothes.

The mate of the Alice states that the vessels were seized in the most peremptory manner, and the crews put ashore, where they had to remain exposed to the bitter cold and to the rain, which wetted them through, for eleven or twelve hours. These vessels were sunk at once, but as they were not sufficient to block the passage of the river entirely to the satisfaction of the Prussians, the Sylph was subsequently seized, and after her the Paragon.

The seizure announced on Saturday of a seventh English ship, the Sylph, of Whitby, Captain Ramsdale, is thus reported in the letter of the *Times* correspondent at Havre:—"She was lying at the quay at Rouen on the 24th December, when she was boarded, her crew forced ashore, and she was then towed away by a steamer down the river. In all seven cases (the writer adds) the captains protested energetically against the seizure. Each captain was required to name the value of his vessel, and the sum named was endorsed on a document in German, which was handed to him, and which was taken under protest and lodged at the Vice-Consulate. The acting Vice-Consul has been called upon to pay for lodgings and food for the seven crews and for the means of conveying them to Dieppe."

The *Manchester Guardian* publishes a telegram summarising some correspondence, printed by the *Courrier de la Gironde* as having taken place between Mr. Odo Russell and Count Bismarck relative to the sinking of English vessels at Duclair. Mr. Odo Russell wrote to ask for an explanation, and the reply was that by the law of nations Prussia had a right to stop the navigation of the river. The captains of the vessels seized had been offered payment for their property, but the offer had been rejected. Count Bismarck apologises, and states that he is still willing to pay all damage. In a second letter, Mr. Odo Russell, expressing satisfaction at the tone of the reply, asks for further explanations.

The *Daily News* and the *Daily Telegraph* also publish a statement that the remonstrances of our Government on the outrage have been received "in a very fair spirit," and that there is every prospect of the affair being amicably arranged. Dr. Russell telegraphs from Versailles in the same sense.

REPUBLICAN DEMONSTRATION AT BORDEAUX.

On the 1st there was an imposing Republican demonstration at Bordeaux before the Prefecture, in which at least 100,000 persons took part. The whole of the National Guard were present, but without arms. Lord Lyons looked upon the scene from the windows of his hotel, which is just opposite the Prefecture. M. Gambetta spoke from the balcony of the Prefecture in a loud voice, and was received with immense applause. This was especially the case when he characterised as an "imposture" the words "The Empire is peace" which "the Man of December and of Sedan" uttered in this same city of Bordeaux some years since. He declared that the Republican Government derived its legitimacy from necessity and the general consent. When its task was accomplished, it would surrender its power—power that it had not assumed for its own purposes. Meanwhile, its motto would be war à outrance; and it would firmly maintain its authority. These words were received with loud shouts of "Vive la République."

THE EX-EMPEROR NAPOLEON.

The Emperor Napoleon went out to skate twice during the past week at Wilhelmsbühne, and it is reported that his skill and agility in this hazardous exercise are admirable. He is a far better skater than any of his companions at the castle. About

noon on Christmas Day Queen Augusta forwarded to Napoleon a number of handsome sleighs for his own especial use. He has been much pleased by this kindly act of courtesy, and has sent to the Queen of Prussia acknowledgments of his gratitude.

A letter from Cassel says that the Emperor looks forward with confidence to his speedy restoration by the will of the French nation, and by the French nation only.

Writing from Versailles, Dr. Russell says:—"The moral power of the Government never relaxes in its vigorous war against the Dictatorship and the Red Flag, and its organ here, now quoting the *Situation* and now the *Drapeau*, seeks at the same time to familiarise the image of a Bonaparte Regency."

"There are grounds for believing," writes the Bordeaux correspondent of the *Times*, "that the Emperor Napoleon still reckons a very large number of adherents among the rural population."

On Sunday (New Year's Day) the Duc de Persigny, the Marquis de Lavalette, and his son, Baron Jérôme David, M. Rouher, M. de Bouville, and fifty or sixty of the principal French families now residing in this country, were received by the Empress of the French at Chislehurst.

NOTES AND INCIDENTS.

La Liberté states that the Pope has made a proposal to the European Powers to act as a mediator, in order to put an end to the war between France and Prussia.

All the French ports occupied by Germans are announced to be blockaded by French vessels.

According to the *Göttingen Gazette*, another Parisian balloon fell in Norway at the end of November. The car contained nothing living but six pigeons. Three sacks of letters were found in it, a Scotch plaid, a naval officer's cap, an electrical apparatus, a telescope, three loaves, a goose, several bottles of claret, and a bag of wearing apparel marked "E. C. M." and "R. M." The balloon must have been recently abandoned, as the pigeons' food and water had lately been renewed.

The German authorities intend to reconstruct the town of Strasbourg after a new plan. The destroyed houses are, therefore, not to be rebuilt for the present.

The German wounded at the ambulance of Brussels have had their Christmas tree, and were presented with gifts and a Christmas dinner by their resident countrymen.

There is a characteristic story of General Manteuffel's "liberality" at Rouen. The general sent for a barber, who consequently attended upon him at the inn. The general next sent to the innkeeper for a napoleon, and gave it to the barber for his services.

The Delegate Government at Bordeaux have issued a decree dissolving the councils-general, which, elected for nine years under the Imperial system of official candidatures, and by official pressure, are now declared as incompatible with the new Government as the late Senate and Corps Législatif. Provisionally, the Prefects will nominate departmental commissioners to organise the local budgets and transact necessary business. The decree making this important change is dated Bordeaux, Dec. 24, and signed by all four members of the delegated Government, M. Gambetta's signature being sent from Lyons by telegraph.

A letter of Count Bismarck's is published, in which he accepts the citizenship of Worms. In this letter he observes that the future of the old imperial city is inseparable from the remembrance of the glory of the German Empire, and the misfortunes of the city marked Germany's decline. Its present sympathy with the national movement is a sign of the spirit of unity which possesses the German people.

A conspiracy has been discovered among the French prisoners at Cologne, Coblenz, and Mayence, 50,000 strong. They intended, it is said, to mutiny on Christmas Eve, disarm the guards, and fight their way back to France. The troops, being kept in readiness, prevented the outbreak. Many French officers have been removed from the Rhine to the fortresses on the Russian frontier.

One of the Paris balloons which recently fell in Belgium is stated by the *Patrie* to have conveyed a lady. She insisted on accompanying M. Drolling, formerly Chief Engineer of Bridges and Highways in the Gironde, at present Inspector-General, whose governess she had been, and with whom she had lived from his infancy. She is a widow, seventy years of age; her name is Madame Rousset. The communications between Belgium and the south of France being interrupted, she was obliged to proceed by sea to Bordeaux, where she formerly lived and is well-known.

The committee of inquiry into the capitulation of Strasbourg and Metz is formed. Marshal Baraguay d'Hilliers is the president, and MM. Foltz, Grosben, de Martinprey, and Pourcq, generals of division, are members.

General Chanzy, at a breakfast he gave to his friends a few days ago, said:—"Gentlemen, you have beaten the enemy already several times, and you can beat him again. I intend to reach Paris, and perseverance is all that is needed to gain our end."

A telegram from Versailles says that Count Bismarck is still indisposed.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FOOD QUESTION IN PARIS.—The *Patrie* gives a list of Paris prices on the 17th inst.:—Asbes' flesh was 2f. per lb.; mules', ditto; a cat, 2f.; a dog, 10f.; duck, 20f.; chicken, 15f.; mutton kidneys, 2f.; mutton cutlets, 1f. 50c.; eggs, 1f. each; butter, 15f.; to 20f. per lb.; sausages, 50c. each; turkey, 30f.;

goose, 40f.; pike, 25f.; leg of mutton, 12f.; coffee, 3f. per lb.; sugar, 80c.; salt, 1f. 50c.; pepper, 1f. 50c.; lard, 5f.; salad oil, 5f.; lamp oil, 2f. 50c.; candles, 2f. The restaurants, it adds, were open as usual, the only difference being that while fowls, mutton, and beef were still eaten in the first-class ones, the flesh of horses, asses, and dogs was consumed in second-rate, and cat and rat in small establishments. Some restaurants give their customers the choice of chicken's wings, fillets of ass, and legs of rats. At one time the vendors of singing birds, domestic and foreign, tried to introduce a taste for them among the Parisians, but there was such a burst of indignation and such horror expressed by the ladies that the idea was abandoned. Almost everywhere, accordingly, birds, whether at liberty or caged, continued to sing without molestation. A provision merchant had bought all the edible animals in the Jardin d'Acclimatation and the Jardin des Plantes, and the former had already been consumed.

AN ECCLESIASTICAL FLANEUR.—The war which is now raging (says the "Besieged Resident" of the *Daily News*) has produced many humbugs, but none to my mind equal to Monsieur Bauer. His great object is to see and to be seen, and most thoroughly does he succeed in his object. He is a short, stout man, dressed in a cassock, a pair of jack-boots with large spurs, and a hat such as you would only see at the opera. On his breast he wears a huge star. Round his neck is a chain, with a great golden cross attached to it; and on his fingers, over his gloves, he wears gorgeous rings. The trappings of his horse are thickly sprinkled with Geneva crosses. By his side rides a standard-bearer, bearing aloft a flag with a red cross. Eight aides-de-camp, arrayed in a sort of purple and gold fancy uniform, follow him, and the *cortège* is closed by two grooms in unimpeachable tops. In this guise, and followed by this *état-major*, he is a conspicuous figure upon a field of battle, and produces much the same effect as the head of a circus riding into a town on a piebald horse, surrounded by clowns and pets of the ballet. He was the confessor of the Empress, and is now the sumonier of the press ambulance.

CHRISTMAS IN THE LINES.—The *Times* correspondent at Versailles writes on the 25th:—"The weather is so severe as to render operations on the part of raw troops almost impossible. At 6 a.m. on Friday thermometer stood at 18 deg. Yesterday it was at 9 deg. This morning it was at 10 deg. Fahrenheit; and this with a wind of the most savage and relentless character. In my room, despite a good fire—and fuel has risen to unheard-of prices—the thermometer on the wall near the window stands at 18 deg., or 14 deg. below freezing point. All night the guns kept up their fire to keep the Germans on the alert, and give a suitable welcome to Christmas. And what a night it must have been on outpost duty for sixty miles round! I hear of frostbitten and frozen men. There are rejoicings, tempered by the excessive cold, in camps and quarters. Even the sick and wounded came in for their share of Christmas presents, and the Christmas tree, a peculiarly German institution, which has flourished in England recently, stands in the hospital wards, in the officers' quarters, and in the various camps, laden with welcome offerings. Be sure the Queen does not forget her Guards. Every regiment has got some special friends in the district or town to which it belongs, and the trains have been gorged with presents. I hear the Crown Prince will be presented with a tree by his staff, and his Royal Highness's charities have been most liberal." The special correspondent of the *Standard* writes:

"—The members of the 'Fourth Estate' muster strongly enough at Versailles to have organised a Christmas dinner, though it should be added that it could scarcely have taken place at all, and would certainly have been only a melancholy meal, but for the spirit and energy of one amiable member of our body, who unites with a graceful pen a mastery of many languages, and a rare musical faculty, the qualifications upon which depends the successful ordering of a feast. We sat down sixteen guests, the press of America being honourably represented among us. Mr. Odo Russell did us the pleasure of joining our circle, and even Prussian uniforms were not absent from the board. The room in which we dined is in that portion of the Hotel des Réservoirs which is occupied by the French International Society—the society, by the way, has narrowly escaped extinction at the hands of the Prussian authorities, though why it was threatened I cannot understand—and was tastefully hung with festoons of mistletoe. Perhaps we shall not receive all the compassion which in this our exile we really deserve, when I add that roast beef, plum pudding, and mince-pies had been provided as a cure for the nostalgia from which we are suffering. I think we did our best to be merry, and, perhaps, succeeded; but our parting wish certainly was that we might never meet again under similar circumstances."

AFTER THE BATTLE AT BEAUGENCY.—A "Military Correspondent" of the *Times* describes the following scenes witnessed by him in the course of the engagement between the Duke of Mecklenburg and General Chanzy, on the 9th Dec.:—"In a house which had once been a *Pension de Jeunes Filles*, 'every room from cellar to roof was crowded with dead and starving men, lying so thick it was impossible to move among them.' It was Saturday, and many of them had been there since the Wednesday, some since the Tuesday. All that time 'not one drop of water, not one atom of food, had passed their lips,' nor had any comforting hand approached them. If a broken-legged sergeant had been able to throw his own coat over his more severely wounded officer that

was the utmost relief any of them had obtained. Moreover, the windows of the house were all broken, and all these days and nights of almost Arctic cold they had been lying on the bare floor with their wounds undressed. All the agonies of wounds, of cold, of hunger, and thirst, with all the horrors of death, were endured for days together by these helpless sufferers. The battle, in fact, had been raging for three days around Beaugency, neither side gaining such undisturbed possession of the town as to be able to think of the wounded. Even on the second day, German shells burst in hospitals where French volunteers were tending German wounded. That night there was only one doctor in the town capable of performing amputations, and there were 200 desperately wounded men in one building alone. The dead lay thick among the dying, and as the former were dragged out their places were instantly filled. Miserable objects, with broken jaws or faces half shot away, wandered about pointing to their dreadful wounds and making piteous signals for water, which it was impossible for them to swallow. Officers and men, veterans and boys, all lay in one undistinguishable mass of misery. Every moan that the human voice can utter rose from that heap of agony." This was on the Thursday. How many more scenes like this might there have been seen in Beaugency on Saturday? And how many more in the numerous villages over which the storm of conflict has passed between Beaugency and Vendôme?" The same writer says:—"The system of the Prussians, which is admirable as to the conveyance of their own wounded from the battle-field, breaks down completely as to those of the enemy who fall into their hands. It does not attempt to deal with them. The latter are left to be carried away by country carts, if there are any; their wounds are to be dressed by French surgeons, if there are any; and they are to be fed by the commune where they happen to be, if there is food. As the whole of the flour, all the horses, and all the carts have been requisitioned for the German army, it is generally impossible for anything to be done. I see even at Lagney, a railway-station near Paris, through which hundreds of tons of sausage and biscuit daily pass, no provision is made for feeding the French prisoners, who have been kept from starvation only by the food provided by the English Society. Surely the subscribers to that noble charity never intended to relieve either belligerent of the expense of supporting the prisoners who might fall into its hands."

A BIBLE COLPORTEUR AMID THE FIGHTING.—A dragoon officer has come here hither (writes a correspondent of the *Daily News* at Gonesse) on an errand worth mentioning in England. His men, quartered in a village a considerable distance to the rear, have heard that there is in Gonesse a colporteur of the English Bible Society with his wagon, and they have asked the officer to come and ask the colporteur either to visit or to part with a few parcels of his tracts. I forgot to mention at the time that on the road between Gonesse and Aulnay, on the morning of the 23rd, a road which two hours after was a very *dolorosa* of exploding shells, I met this same colporteur coolly jogging forward with intent to distribute his wares among the battalions standing on the slope there waiting for the battle to commence. "It was a good time," according to the expressed views of this simple, brave Christian man, "for the men to read good words when they were standing there with nothing to do, and with the shadow of death hanging over them." There are few who will disagree with him, but there are not many who would proceed so practically to give effect to his convictions.

SOCIAL CONDITION OF MARSEILLES.—A correspondent sends the following extract from a letter written at Marseilles:—"We begin to have a very anxious time here. The rich are now alarmed for the poor, as we are without magistrates or police, so that if any one knocked you down in the streets you could get no redress. The rich gentlemen are having meetings to make arrangements for giving assistance to the poor. People here who have hitherto kept seven or eight servants are now keeping three or four only. All the merchants are losing daily, and there are great fears of an insurrection if Paris is taken."

BEREAVEMENTS IN BAVARIA.—A correspondent of the *Guardian*, writing from Munich, says:—"The Bavarian contingent has suffered terribly from the last few battles. Much misery and sorrow has, in consequence, befallen many families. The cemeteries are the scenes of many military funerals. Wounded men come home to die, and the corpses of distinguished officers arrive by railway. A sad affliction has just befallen a family of rank. The husband went to the war, leaving his wife, to whom he had been about a year married, *enceinte*. The wife died in her confinement. The husband was telegraphed for, but no answer was returned. It is supposed he is mortally wounded. The child survives. Much interest has been excited by this sad case, which is unhappily not a singular one. There is scarcely a house which does not mourn its dead."

GERMAN FEELING ON THE WAR.—A correspondent of the *Times*, who has just made the journey from London to Wilhelmshöhe, writes:—"In Germany, far distant from the field of war, the spectacle, though very different in many respects from what one observes in France, is the reverse of edifying. That the whole country is being fast drained of its able-bodied male population, is becoming terribly evident. The contrast since my visit in October is very striking. The number of men in the prime of life seems fearfully diminished, and still the insatiable Moloch of war calls for fresh victims. From all the expressions of opinion I have been able to

gather, the conclusion is inevitable that Germany yearns with scarcely less anxiety than France for the restoration of peace; and, if the masses of this country were consulted, it is not to be doubted that they would gladly accord to France terms which might fairly be accepted as honourable. But I am told that the rulers—the nobility and the professional classes—will listen to no abatement in the demands put forward two months ago, and are determined not to accept anything short of the utter humiliation of Germany's gallant but unfortunate enemy. Strange to say, they seem to be as ignorant here of facts as the French themselves, and are quite as disposed to nourish illusions."

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE WAR.—A "remonstrance" has been forwarded to Mr. Gladstone, upon his declining to receive a deputation on the subject of the war between France and Germany. It expresses surprise and regret that official recognition continues to be accorded to the deposed Imperial dynasty, whilst it is still refused to that Government which for three months has been accepted by the French people. More immediately, the English Government is urged to call upon that of Prussia to make peace on reasonable terms not involving the seizure of French territory. Failing this, England should, without further delay, "join France in her resistance, and declare war against Prussia to aid France in resuming that position amongst the Western Powers to which she is rightly entitled, and which has been recognised by English statesmen in former settlements of Europe." The signatures to the "remonstrance" include those of Mr. Richard Congreve, Mr. Frederic Harrison, Mr. E. S. Beesly, Mr. H. Dix Hutton, Mr. George Odger, Mr. W. Allan, Mr. R. Applegarth, and Mr. George Potter.

A WORD FOR ENGLAND IN BERLIN.—In the *Berlin National Zeitung*, M. Arnold Ruge publishes an article headed, "Ein Wort für die Engländer." In it he says that the hostile tone now and then observed towards England by the German press appears, however justifiable, in many respects impolitic. All essential interests of the two countries are the same, and there are no contending ones. The common interests are the peace of Europe, freedom of industry, commerce, navigation, and public life. No invasion of either country is to be apprehended by the other. The English Constitution is not only not feared by the Germans, but in its form is taken by them as a model. The question why England declared herself only hypothetically—i.e. in case of a violation of the neutrality of Belgium—against France, M. Ruge answers by saying that, otherwise, England would have abandoned the principle of interfering as little as possible in continental affairs; Germans cannot expect not to have it remarked when they shake hands with Russia; and the distrust of German constitutionalism is still and justly great in England, as the principle of popular sovereignty has not yet become valid in Germany. England, moreover, having been accustomed to the French alliance, feels painfully the collapse of France, and does not in the least understand the question of Alsace and Lorraine and the significance of Northern Germany, as the Seven Years War and the war of 1866 are still looked upon by her simply as wars of conquest. M. Ruge recalls how the declaration of the present war was received by political leaders and the press. The subsequent change of opinion is attributed by M. Ruge to credulous faith in the professions of the Government of the 4th of September, which in reality wants "victory and the Rhine" just as much as Napoleon, and to the dislike of the third member of the Holy Alliance. He concludes by saying that Germany may arrive at an enduring confraternity with England, if she introduced the supremacy of the law and loyally adopted the English principles of government. If after the war a return of the Holy Alliance policy were guarded against, Germany would find her truest friend in England.

SEIZURE OF A TELEGRAPHIC SHIP.—The *Daily News* is informed that the International, a ship having on board a submarine cable for the French Government, has been seized on the complaint of Count Bernstorff, the Prussian Ambassador, and lies in the Thames in charge of Custom-house officers. It is stated that "by an amendment to an Act passed during the last session of Parliament 'military telegraphy' was included among the subjects with respect to which an infringement of neutrality became possible, and under this statute the Government found itself obliged to take notice of the information supplied by Count Bernstorff, and to act upon his demand for the detention of the vessel."

MOONLIGHT IN 1871.—It is worthy of note that there will be a full moon in the first week of each of the first seven months of the year. In July there will be two full moons, viz., on the 2nd and 31st. And in the remaining five months the moon will be at the full in the last week of each month. It will probably be many years before this will happen again.

FEMALE FOLLY.—A "handsome-looking" young woman, named Jemima Hall, aged twenty-one, has died in Myddleton-square, London, from the effects of tight-lacing. On the body of deceased a post-mortem examination was made by the coroner's order, when it was found that the whole of the organs of the body were contracted and out of their places. Her stomach was smaller than that of an ordinary infant, and her heart weighed only four ounces. The body was fearfully emaciated, and the medical gentleman stated that it was the most remarkable case of the kind that had ever come under his notice.

Foreign and Colonial.

SPAIN.

ASSASSINATION AND DEATH OF MARSHAL PRIM.
In the course of the debate on the civil list in the Cortes on the 27th, Marshal Prim said that he would override the Constitution, if necessary, in order to save the liberty of the country. He added that he intended to tender his resignation to His Majesty, as he was anxious to retire into private life.

On the evening of the 28th while Marshal Prim was proceeding from the Cortes to the Ministry of War, some individuals fired at his carriage in the Calle Alcalá. The Marshal and one of his adjutants were wounded. Prim received no less than eight balls in his shoulder, seven of which were extracted, and a finger of his right hand had to be amputated. There were hopes that the case would take a favourable turn, but inflammation set in, and it was found that life could not be saved even by the amputation of the arm. The Marshal retained consciousness to the last. When made aware of the rapid approach of death, he bade "Adieu" to his friends composedly. It is said he expressed much anxiety for the safety of the new King. Prim died about nine o'clock on the 30th.

When the Cortes met on the 28th, a decree was read appointing Admiral Topete, who has hitherto been the head of the Montpensier party, Minister of State and Minister of War *ad interim*. A resolution expressing abhorrence at the attempted assassination of Marshal Prim was passed by 200 votes. A vote of confidence in the Government was passed by 141 against 3. A report of the committee was read approving the suspension of the constitutional guarantees.

The death of Marshal Prim has caused a profound sensation. The Cortes, in their sitting on the 31st, declared him to have deserved well of his country. His name will be inscribed in the Hall of the Cortes, and the family of the Marshal will be placed under the protection of the nation. In the same sitting the Cortes passed a vote of absolute confidence in the Government.

King Amadeus disembarked at Cartagena on the 30th, and was received by Admiral Topete. In consequence of the Marshal's death the preparations for erecting triumphal arches to welcome the arrival of the King in Madrid have been stopped. Official telegrams report great enthusiasm along the route taken by His Majesty through Murcia.

The King entered Madrid on Monday. On his arrival he visited Prim's remains at the Atocha Church. He then took the oath of fidelity to the Constitution in the Cortes. Afterwards he visited Prim's widow, and then went to the palace on horseback. He was enthusiastically cheered by the people along the whole route.

ITALY.

On Saturday King Victor Emmanuel arrived at Rome. He was received by all the public authorities of the city, which was immediately illuminated. The crowd was loud in its applause, and called for the King to appear on the balcony of the Quirinal. The King left yesterday amid enthusiastic demonstrations. His Majesty gave 200,000f. to be distributed for charitable purposes, and he begged the municipality to devote to similar objects the money which had been set apart for festivities in his honour.

The King, on reaching Rome, sent a letter to the Pope, announcing his arrival. Colonel Spinola, the bearer of a letter to this effect, was very cordially received by Cardinal Antonelli.

An immense loss of property has resulted from the inundations, the most disastrous since the year 1830. The lower part of the city was submerged for nearly forty-eight hours.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

A telegram from Lahore states that Sir Henry Durand died on Sunday through a fall from an elephant.

A crisis in Utah seems to be imminent. The series of judgments given by Chief Justice M'Kean in the Supreme Court of the territory will, if upheld, go far to crush the Mormon power.

La Paix, a Belgian Ultramontane paper, announces as "possible" the arrival of the Pope in Belgium, and mentions Malines, Louvain, and Liège as likely places of residence.

THE FIRST COLOURED MAN who has ever sat in the United States House of Representatives has just taken his seat. Mr. Rainey has been elected for one of the districts of South Carolina. He is about thirty-eight years of age. He was a slave until set free by the events of the war, and has never been at school.

DETHRONED.—The *Indépendance Belge* gives the following list of sovereigns still living who have been deprived of their thrones:—Prince Gustave Wasa of Sweden, 1809; Count de Chambord, August 12, 1830; Duke Charles of Brunswick, September 17, 1830; Count de Paris, February 24, 1848; Duke Robert de Parme, 1852; Grand Duke Ferdinand of Tuscany, 1860; Duke Francis of Modena, 1860; Francois II. of Naples, February, 1861; the widow of King Otho of Greece, October 24, 1862; Duke Adolf of Nassau, 1866; King George of Hanover, 1866; the Elector of Hesse, 1866; Empress Charlotte of Mexico, 1867; Isabella of Spain, 1869; Emperor Napoleon, 1870.

A YANKEE NOTION.—New York advices describe a project in course of introduction for a grand Crystal Palace in that city—"a palace so inconceivably huge," according to the *Journal of Commerce*, "that, in the language of a prospectus,

the Crystal structure of 1851 was only a toy-house compared with it." It is to occupy about twenty-three acres, and the capital stock proposed to be created is 1,200,000^l. A dollar per square foot is to be the charge for space to exhibitors, and the price for single admissions is to be half a dollar. The site chosen is stated to be at a disadvantageous point, "far removed from the hotels and the populous parts of the city."

THE AMERICAN CENSUS.—The quinquennial census of the United States has just been completed, and shows that the Union contains a population of 39,000,000, or about one-fourth more than our own. It has increased 22 per cent. in the decade, and at the same rate will, in 1900, reach 75,000,000. Of these, about one-tenth will be negroes, as they increase, notwithstanding the war, nearly as fast as the whites. The largest State, New York, now numbers 4,370,000, or a million more than the six New England States, which collectively number only 3,482,000, or a fourth of the population of "The West," now above twelve millions.

THE MONT CENIS TUNNEL.—The Prefect of Savoy was present at the final perforation of the Mont Cenis tunnel. He was received by the engineers and workmen with shouts of "Long live France!" At the inauguration banquet the Prefect delivered a speech, in which he said: "It is well that the world should know that, notwithstanding the peril and anguish of the struggle for the defence of the honour and existence of France, the Republic is associated, by its representatives, with the great emotions of this day, which marks a solemn hour for the whole civilised world in view of so colossal a work gloriously accomplished." This speech of the Prefect was loudly applauded. On their arrival at the end of the tunnel the Prefect said, "France and Italy are united in this work of civilisation." The enthusiasm of the guests present was still greater when, at the end of the *soirée*, the Prefect proposed a toast in honour of the two capitals most illustrious in the world: "Rome, which you have conquered; and Paris, which we shall not lose."

THE RUSSIAN PRESS ON THE WAR.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Eastern Budget* says, writing on the 18th inst.:—"The sudden change which has taken place in the attitude of the Russian press towards Prussia shows how little it can be relied upon as an exponent of the opinions of the Russian people." This change, as every one here knows, was caused simply by a warning addressed to the editors by M. Szydlofsky, the director of the censorship; and ever since the press has not only ceased its attacks on Prussia, but refrained from expressing sympathy with France. All the newspapers, even the scientific ones, are now being held in with a very tight rein. A medical paper, *The Archives of Forensic Medicine*, having published an article on hygiene, with reference to the working classes of Western Europe, its editor was dismissed, although the article had previously passed the censorship, and the censor was severely reprimanded. The editor of the *Official Messenger* has also been dismissed on account of his French sympathies, and an official from the Ministry of the Interior has been appointed in his place.

THE LATE FAMINE IN RAJPOOTANA.—The Rev. Mr. Robson, a missionary at Ajmeer, has made public some additional facts connected with the late famine in Rajpootana, on account of which the missionaries, chiefly Presbyterians I think, have incurred a debt of 20,000 rupees, which they ask Government to pay. Mr. Robson calculates from what date he has that no fewer than a million persons died during those years (1868-9) from famine. In the British district, where alone there are reliable returns, 70,000, or one-sixth of the whole population, died. The governmental machinery for meeting so sudden a calamity was of the clumsiest and most unwieldy character, even in the hands of a Governor whose humanity is beyond question. What remained was that the missionaries should themselves grapple with the awful visitation, which advanced so rapidly that there was barely time for preparation, and they certainly did good work. Public works were engaged in and food provided for thousands. The Government refuses, and properly, to refund the 20,000 rupees till it has full reports on the subject from its local officers, but there is little doubt that in the end it will pay the money, though the missionaries do not seem to rely upon that very confidently. The great want in Rajpootana as well as Orissa is irrigation, which, rapidly as it advances, is too slow for the need.—*Times Correspondent at Calcutta*.

BABOO KESHUB CHUNDER SEN AND HIS REFORMS.—Our late Oriental visitor, Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen, seems to have been putting in practice some of his English experiences since his return to Calcutta. In company with some of his co-religionists he has organised an "Indian Reform Association," for the promotion of the following objects:—1. Female improvement. 2. General and technical education. 3. Cheap literature for the poor. 4. Temperance; and 5. Charity. Each of these sections is placed under separate managers, who also act in combination as a general committee, under the president of the society, Baboo K. C. Sen. The sections for female improvement and cheap literature have already commenced operations, and the new journal started by the latter section, the *Sulav Sumachar*, or *Cheap News*, is already a decided success. It is published weekly at one pice (less than a halfpenny), and "will contain, besides miscellaneous news, easy and short essays on moral, political, and social topics, and the biographies of great and good men." This journal is selling by thousands already. Morning and evening schools were shortly to be opened for the middle and labouring classes, where useful instruction of various kinds would be given. The prospectus is

both practical and modest, and the scheme deserves the hearty sympathy of Englishmen. All persons who are interested in the objects of the society are eligible as members, irrespective of differences of race and creed, and we hope that some of our countrymen in India may lend a helping hand to this praiseworthy undertaking.—*Daily News*.

AMERICAN NOTES.

MR. BEECHER AND THE CHRISTIAN MORAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

Dr. Cather is making a tour of the United States for the purpose of establishing an association for the promotion of Christian morals. The idea is thus briefly stated by Dr. Cather:—"In divided labour there is the greatest wisdom and power, but the men who should undertake the work of this proposed association should be members of living Evangelical churches. They must not believe that Christ is the head of any particular church to the exclusion of every other church, but while each is loyal to his own local organisation, they must come together in this work from motives of pure loyalty to Christ, and stay together until conscience releases them. The facts of this science, and upon which it is designed to be based, are the creation, the depravity of the human race, the Divinity and Atonement of Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit upon human hearts. And on these facts it is designed by this association to build up a high school of morals which shall include the following sections: 1. The Source of Morals; 2. Spiritual Morals; 3. Intellectual Morals; 4. Social Economics; and 5. Industrial Morals." At a breakfast held in New York in the interest of the association, Mr. Beecher presided, and made some remarks which will bear reproduction. "It is the sum of all fructifying beliefs that represents Christianity, and not a single opinion of any individual. The Christianity of Jesus cannot be put in a book, and never was. The Bible contains no God, no Christ, but the symbolisation of God, and of a Christ. He lives outside of all and of all earths and worlds. Living and vital everywhere, He cannot be compressed into Jerusalem, nor into the Temple, and still less within the leaves of a printed book. The book tells us of Him, but it is not Him. He is in the Church, and what is the Church? Not a building, not a simple population, but it is the heart vitalised by the Divine Spirit itself; the heart of men brought into the region of the Divine power. All these constitute the great church of God on earth, and it is in the hearts of men that He only can be found. And in this great work, which has been going on through many stages from the beginning until this day, it seems to me that the providence of God indicates that we are drawing near to that final fruition for which Christ prayed. We are to remember the platform laid down to the masses. In identifying our great Master, John sent to the Saviour demanding, 'Art thou the Christ, or look we for another.' Jesus said, 'Go and tell John I preach such and such doctrines, and I organised such a kindred.' In that same hour He had been performing many wonderful works. 'Go and tell him,' said He, 'the blind see, the deaf hear, the dead are raised,' and then the climax of all, 'the poor have the Gospel preached unto them.' Jesus says, 'Go tell him that': and John has sense enough to know what that means. (A laugh.) What was then the substance of all this? The works that are done, they testify, and when, therefore, our Master said, 'By his fruits ye shall know him,' there was a test of orthodoxy; there was a test of church connection. He that does the will of God in the spirit of the Lord, or seeks to do it in earnestness, cannot be heterodox. Now, my brethren, let me inform you in a few words that I am myself the only soundly orthodox man in this congregation—(laughter)—and I also say with the utmost deference that there is but one form of popular church organisation. (Continued laughter.) I do think that all the others are clumsy. I won't specify, yet I think the vehicles with which they are carrying passengers to heaven are better than to be without them. It is not that they are specially organised, and it is not altogether this that each man thinks that his denomination is the best. It is not that does the mischief. It is that being separately and differently organised, they are trained to believe they are the only organisation on which God looks with special favour. Forty men looking into the Scripture; each one drew a special idea, and I don't think God ever set up a mark for forty men to fire at and it could not be hit. Brethren, whatever organisation tends to the advancement of the great ends of the Gospel, the brotherhood of Christ and the harmony of the Church, that is good enough for God's providence and it ought to be good enough for us. Therefore let us not be iconoclastic. I would not that any association that undertook to create a Christian union should excite prejudice and distrust. All I say is, that while every man entertains his own opinions, let him in a spirit of love for the Lord promote fellowship with others as honest as himself. We don't want one symbol or name; we want one spirit. That we get by the spirit of love from the hands of God, and it answers every substantial use. I recognise the Presbyterians and Baptists as sincere Christians, and in my heart wish them well. I promote the work of God in their hearts; let them be true to their convictions, but let me be true to mine. There are people in Columbia-street who have not the taste in keeping their houses that I have, and I compassionate them. I get up every morning at six o'clock, and they can't get up until eight, which is mortal heresy, but still I speak to them. (Laughter.) There are people who dine at the abominable hour of six in the evening, which

I never do, and they know it, yet don't reform. Every one is not endowed as I am. (Laughter.) There is but one Pope, and I am he. And yet by this toleration I get along well with these people. I let their children play with mine when I had any, and we are all harmonious, and we visit each other, and we rejoice in each other's prosperity, and we mourn in each other's sorrows. Now, why should not churches get along as well as houses? It is considered bad manners to interfere in a neighbour's economy; why not let the churches have the same privileges? Once let men get this idea that conscience requires health, sympathy and co-operative harmony, and the work is substantially accomplished. I believe God is bringing us to that time."

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, NEW YORK.

There were during the past year in our five lodging-houses 12,162 different boys and girls; and 136,086 lodgings and 150,176 meals were supplied. 2,757 were sent to good homes, mainly in the West. In the nineteen day and eight evening industrial schools were 7,098 children, who were taught, and partly fed and clothed. Orphans who have been in lodging-houses, 4,470.

A religious newspaper has been started in New York called the *Christian at Work*. In the number before us we find an account of "Work among the Masses in London," extracted from the *Hearth and Home*, which we wish were as true as the writer evidently believes it to be. He says:—"The merchants of London have an outspoken way of talking of religion, as if it was no appendage or a thing of which they need be ashamed. They gather in their counting-rooms for prayer; have clubs that meet weekly for studying the Bible; go among the lowly and neglected on Sunday, gather the little congregations where the regular ministry cannot go, and form that great column, 5,000 strong, who on every Sunday go out to do among the masses their work for their Master. Scarcely a family—at least, none who lay claim to any degree of respectability—fails to have family service at least part of the day. These devotions are not irreverently rapid or tedious, as often with us, but are short, crisp, and reverent. The servants come in, bringing with them their Bibles and the benches on which they sit." It is to be hoped the "Home" news of this journal is more reliable.

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE EXPEDITION.

The accounts are gradually coming from the astronomical parties who went abroad to see the great phenomenon of the 22nd ult. They appear to have met with indifferent success. From the Moorish Castle at Gibraltar nothing was seen of the eclipse when total. At Estepona Mr. Buckingham reports there was heavy rain. Mr. Richard Abbott, who stayed at Gibraltar, was able to observe the total phase for about two seconds, and others there appear to have made somewhat fuller observations. At Cadiz Lord Lindsay succeeded in taking several excellent photographs. The American party at Xeres saw the totality for about a minute. At Seville it began to rain at 12.10 p.m., and the sun was lost to sight until the conclusion of the eclipse, which occurred at 1.30 p.m. The eclipse was total for seventy seconds, and the effect was very striking, the whole sky becoming of a lurid purple and very dark. The birds were hushed and frightened, and the charcoal-burners' fires in the mountains, some five leagues distant, were plainly visible.

In a condensed notice of the results of the expedition, the *Daily Telegraph* says:—Lord Lindsay obtained some excellent photographs of the total phase with a large reflecting telescope, which he fitted up near Cadiz, in the vineyard of Mr. Campbell, the Spanish Consul. This telescope, which weighed two tons, had a silvered glass mirror, 12½ inches in diameter, and 6 feet in focal length, giving an image of the sun about ½-inch in diameter. The instrument was made by Mr. John Browning, F.R.A.S., the optician, who yesterday morning received the following very gratifying letter from Lord Lindsay:—

We have had very good success. Nine photographs during totality. Two of corona, filaments, &c., and one having Baily's beads. Corona exposures, 17½ seconds and 20 seconds.

Polariscope plane of polarisation 23 deg. from vertex towards the west; no appearance of polarisation just before and after.

Mr. Brown could not find any line in the corona, but a continuous spectrum; no dark or bright lines.

I had four gentlemen sketching the corona, and one with a position circle and a telescope measuring the angles of the prominent streamers of the corona. This, compared with naked-eye drawings, tallies remarkably well.

(Signed) LINDSAY.

When Lord Lindsay left London, he intended to take four or five photographs of the solar prominences, and to obtain a picture of the corona afterwards if time remained, but it will be seen from the above letter that he altered his plan, and devoted the time to two long exposures, one of 17½ and the other of 20 seconds, by which he has secured successful photographs of the corona. In the time which remained, or only 1½ minute, he has yet, thanks to the facilities afforded by the automatic arrangement of the photographic apparatus attached to the large equatorial, succeeded in obtaining seven photographs of the solar prominences.

There was another expedition at Cadiz, under the charge of the Rev. S. J. Perry. The work of this expedition was much interfered with by clouds. This party took up a position at San Fernando, nearly nine miles due north of the Royal Observatory of that name. Mr. Perry reports that the corona was

so far obscured by clouds as to be almost invisible to the naked eye, though through a telescope of moderate power a fair view could be obtained. The corona was white, and rendered faint by the clouds; the darkness was never sufficient to prevent sketching with comfort without the aid of a lamp. Venus alone was visible; the totality ended by the formation of Baily's beads, and the corona was visible to the naked eye fifteen or sixteen seconds after the totality. The clouds obscuring the sun appear to have almost destroyed all chance of detecting any except atmospheric polarisation, but it was remarked that the polarisation was stronger on the corona than on either the moon's surface or on the cloudy sky. Observations with a powerful spectroscope were quite impracticable. Captain Maclear observed with the small direct-vision Browning's spectroscopic attached to a 4-inch achromatic by Jones. Immediately the totality commenced, the ordinary solar spectrum was replaced by a faint diffused light, and bright lines near C, D, E, and F. This observation was taken close to the sun's limb; but when the slit was removed to one quarter of the sun's diameter from the limb, both on the east and on the west, the same lines were visible. These results may be interpreted in different ways, and will furnish matter for plenty of discussion among scientific men as to the nature of the corona. In one of the prominences two green lines were observed; these were probably due to the metal barium, carried up by the ignited hydrogen, of which the prominences are known to consist. From Cadiz many prominences were seen, but none of them were of large size, or presented any noteworthy peculiarities.

The work of the expedition at Gibraltar was also greatly interfered with by clouds. Mr. James Buckingham, F.R.A.S., writes from Estepona:—

Heavy rain; could take no photographic pictures. Mr. Carpenter observed three bright lines in doubtful positions. Mr. Lewis found the corona polarised. The rest of the party had negative results.

This must have been very disappointing to Mr. Buckingham, who took out from England a fine 9-inch refractor, and, after reaching Gibraltar, he had to transport it thirty miles northward, to Estepona, to reach the centre of the path of the eclipse.

As already published in these columns, the Oran expedition, of which Messrs. Huggins, Tyndall, and Crookes were members, was a total failure in consequence of bad weather. Dense clouds formed twenty minutes before the totality, and lasted for ten minutes afterwards, so that only a partial eclipse was seen, and not the total phase.

Lastly, we have to speak of the Sicilian expedition, under Mr. J. Norman Lockyer, F.R.S., from whom the following telegram has been received:—

Observations of eclipse greatly interfered with by unfavourable weather, but substantial results have been secured. A definite contact of the corona was noticed at a height of about one-third of the radius as presented for the corona. The sphere spectroscopic method for first contact was successfully employed. The American observations of last year upon the corona are confirmed.

To sum up—most of the observations have been to a great extent failures, in consequence of the unfavourable weather before and after the eclipse. Lord Lindsay alone had the good fortune to get a clear sky for five minutes during the period of totality. Happily, that brief space of time was well employed, and the observations will no doubt lead to important results. Meanwhile the comparative failure of the other expeditions shows how important it was to spread the observations over as wide an area as possible.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE WILSON.

The decease of this active political reformer will be widely lamented. The sad event took place suddenly on Thursday morning. Mr. Wilson left Manchester for Liverpool by the nine o'clock train to attend a joint meeting of the Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North-Western Railway boards, being himself the chairman of the Lancashire and Yorkshire board of directors. Before leaving Manchester by the train he appeared to be in his usual health, except that he had a cold. He had spoken, however, to his friends before starting and for several days past, of a pain at the heart, though he did not say it caused him any uneasiness. He was accompanied in the railway-carriage by Mr. Blackmore, traffic manager of his own line, and by one of his brother directors. He began to complain of the cold and of more serious illness after passing the station at Wigan, and was prevailed upon to take a little brandy; but it appears to have given him little or no relief, and before reaching Liverpool he slipped off his seat and died before the train arrived there. Lancashire has seldom produced a more active and useful man. Even before his connection with the League and his long career as chairman of that body he had given evidence of great usefulness and energy as a Reformer in his native town, as long back as the passage of the Reform Bill and the enfranchisement of Manchester for the first time as a Parliamentary borough. He was the organiser of most of the leading political movements in Manchester at that time, and while engaged in his duties as an Anti-Corn-Law-Leaguer found time to organise and carry out a movement which ended in the first charter of the incorporation being granted for Manchester under the Municipal Corporations Act. The labours of the League having culminated in success during 1846, Mr. Wilson was soon afterwards one of the most active promoters and directors of a new company for giving telegraphic communication to the country, and as a director of the Electric Telegraph Company, so early as 1847, he was urging forward the laying down of electric wires from

Manchester to Leeds. At the nomination of Mr. Cobden for the West Riding of Yorkshire in that year, the line had not been completed, but Mr. Wilson had several miles of wire carried on temporarily as far as Wakefield, and from that town the proceedings attendant on the nomination and election of Mr. Cobden were transmitted to Manchester, and appeared in a second edition of the *Manchester Times* newspaper, about two o'clock that day, being the first newspaper report by electric telegraph on record. About this time the Lancashire and Yorkshire shareholders, having become dissatisfied with the condition and prospects of the company, succeeded in inducing Mr. Wilson to accept a seat at the board, where he has from that time to his death been a useful and energetic worker on committees and general board—first as director only, then as vice-chairman, and finally as chairman. His labours on the League did not terminate in 1846, owing to an attempt by the Protectionists to reimpose the Corn Laws; and it may be said that it was not till 1852 that his connection with the struggle ended. For some years past he has been chairman of the National Reform Union, but his other engagements precluded the possibility of his taking a very active or leading part in the movement. Mr. Wilson was connected with the Sandemanians, the sect of which the late Professor Faraday was a member.

Postscript.

Wednesday, January 4th, 1871.

THE WAR.

The *Daily News* correspondent with the Saxon Army reports that on Thursday—the day of the evacuation of Fort Avron by the French—General Ducrot requested by a *Parlementaire* that a Staff Officer might be sent into Paris. Can this request have anything to do with the apparent lull in the operations?

The French Army of the North is once more fighting. It appears to have advanced southwards from Arras, and to have had engagements with the enemy, which are said to have been attended with heavy losses. Ervillers and Behaignes, which are said to have been carried by the French, are on the road from Arras to Bapaume, and Achiel is just to the west of it. Bioncourt, another of the villages mentioned, is in the department of the Somme, near Abbeville. At Ervillers, our Brussels correspondent telegraphs, the French troops maintained their position, but three battalions of Mobiles and three battalions of Marine Fusiliers suffered severely.

In a new Note to Count Bernstorff, Count Bismarck declares that, if Luxembourg behaves as badly during the siege of Longwy as it did during the siege of Thionville, a portion of the Grand Duchy will be occupied by German troops.

It is officially stated that, between Artenay and Orleans, as well as along the other main roads north of the Loire, the French country-people are starving, and must be fed by the German commissariat.

THE DISESTABLISHMENT QUESTION.

Mr. Watkin Williams, M.P., addressing his constituents at Wrexham last night, announced his intention of merging his motion on the disestablishment of the Welsh Church in the more general one in reference to Church Establishments to be introduced by Mr. Miall.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE ELECTORS OF GREENWICH.—Some of our contemporaries yesterday printed, with suspicious haste, an address which they represented to be in course of extensive circulation within the borough of Greenwich for the purpose of signature, calling upon Mr. Gladstone to resign his seat, on the ground that at home and abroad his policy is repugnant to the sentiments of the constituency. On seeing the statement, we at once sent down to Greenwich in order to ascertain the facts of the case; and we find that, while the movement is unknown to the Liberal party, it is emphatically disclaimed by the leading Conservatives of the place. The address, we believe, originated with an obscure clique of Conservatives who hope to derive some advantage from the distress in the town, and from the discontent which is the assumed consequence of that distress. But the only copy of the document seen by our reporter had no signature at all.—*Daily Telegraph*.

THE WEATHER.—Some idea of the cold of last week is furnished by the Registrar-General. The mean temperature at Greenwich Observatory was 25°, or 11° below the average of the same week in fifty years. On the night of Christmas Day the thermometer fell to 9° degrees. Yesterday morning at eight o'clock there was only one degree of frost, and by mid-day a thaw had fairly set in. Last evening, three hours after sunset, the thermometer was at 37° deg. In exposed situations the snow melted rapidly. Skating in the parks was continued yesterday as much zest as before. In the Thames masses of ice are borne down by the current in sufficient quantities to render navigation by barges difficult, if not dangerous.

A LIBERAL PROVISION.—"John," said a poverty-stricken man to his son, "I've made my will, today."—"Ah!" replied John, "you were liberal to me, no doubt!"—"Yes, John, I came down handsome. I've willed you the whole City of London to make a living in, with the privilege of going elsewhere if you can do better."

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First Mathematical Master and Lecturer on Natural Philosophy.—Mr. A. TODD, M.A. Glasgow, (late Williams' Scholar.)

Second Classical and Mathematical Master and Lecturer on Chemistry.—Mr. J. WATERSTON, M.A., (Honours) Aberdeen.

English Master.—Mr. W. G. HARRIS.

French Master.—Monsieur MALFRYOT, B.A., Cluny.

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Drawing Master.—Mr. C. R. HAVELL, Government School of Art, Reading.

Lecturer on Botany.—Mr. A. W. BRUNNELL, M.A., B.Sc., London, F.L.S., Lecturer on Botany to the Westminster Hospital.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1871.

SUMMARY.

THE new year opens with what we would fain hope is to be the last act of the terrible war drama. Time is on the side of French in the departments, but against them in the capital. The general situation may be thus described:—Since the campaign in the valley of the Loire, the Germans have been concentrating their forces. At Orleans Prince Frederick Charles maintains a defensive but watchful attitude, ready to stop the advance of General Chanzy, who threatens again to take the offensive at Le Mans, where he now commands 140,000 men, or to throw himself across the path of General Bourbaki, who is said to aim at throwing his large force of 80,000 upon the German communications at Chalons. The invaders of France are in much the same position as just before the fall of Metz. Though generally victorious, they have sustained very serious losses during this winter campaign, which are creating a great outcry at home. General Manteuffel has orders to act upon the defensive in the North, where some of his troops have been roughly handled by the enemy. General Werder has abandoned Dijon and its neighbourhood, leaving the main line of railway to Paris exposed. But "all the strength of Germany is gathering against France," fresh troops are pouring like a torrent into France, and some of them have already appeared in Lorraine, in Picardy, and around Paris. Apparently Chanzy and Bourbaki will move too late for victory, though the King of Prussia, judging from his New Year's address at Versailles, is not sanguine of an early close of the deadly strife. "We have not," he said, yet reached our goal; important tasks are

still before us ere we arrive at an honourable and lasting peace."

It seems now quite possible that Paris will fall before the external armies are dealt with. The success of the bombardment of the works of Mont Avron, which is a mile in advance of the eastern forts, has surprised both sides. When the German batteries were unmasted, they poured in during one day so deadly a fire that the French abandoned the position to their foes, who entered the ruin and found it deserted. In Paris this event is said to have "caused a certain emotion, but no disorders have occurred." Another statement is that there is "great discouragement." The besiegers are elated; and, in accordance with their new policy "to bombard Paris till peace is concluded," the various outer defences of the French capital have been so effectually shelled that the covering army has withdrawn within the walls, and Forts Nogent, Rosny, and Noisy have been silenced. But they have yet to be taken by assault—an enterprise of great difficulty and danger. An attack on the formidable defences of Mont Valérien is also spoken of, but Fort Issy is a more vulnerable point, and if that be captured Paris will be at the mercy of the investing army. There are manifest proofs that the end is not far off, though should the weather become milder, we may expect desperate sorties before the final capitulation.

We have now accounts of the way in which the hapless Parisians passed Christmas Day. It was mournful and depressing. The Boulevards were absolutely deserted. The cold was Siberian. On the preceding nights no fewer than fifty sentinels were frozen to death at the outposts, and there were more than 1,200 cases of severe frost-bite in the military hospitals. The sufferings of the people are also very great. Typhoid fever is on the increase, especially among the families from the suburbs; well-to-do middle-class families were wholly without fires at ten degrees below freezing point; and the children are dying off by wholesale from lack of nourishing diet. But little other food was left than bread and horseflesh, and no gas. With all this there was not a murmur to be heard; and unlit Paris at night is safer than London. "The people submit," writes a correspondent of the *Daily News*, "to their hard fate, to cold and hunger, and long, dark nights, void of amusement, with a cheerfulness which is sublime. They make no complaints about their miseries, and accept them with an unpretending fortitude which no people in the world could surpass." The soldiers, however, are discouraged, the conviction being now general among them that it is impossible to break out, and General Trochu has announced that he is holding out until some general leads an army to the relief of the capital. One letter affirms, on good authority, that the city is very near its surrender, and that this event will occur before the 20th of January. Others do not hope to resist beyond the 1st of February.

The great Republican demonstration which has come off at Bordeaux can hardly be dissociated from the probabilities of the near future. M. Gambetta, who has just abolished the Councils-General of France by a stroke of the pen, addressed some 50,000 persons at Bordeaux on New Year's Day; spoke with bitter animosity against "the Man of Sedan, the man who tried to gangrene France and uttered the memorable imposture,—'The Empire is Peace,'" and declared the Republic "irrevocably established" and "immortal." The energetic Minister is probably aware of the intrigues that are going on for a restoration of the Empire. Napoleon himself does not conceal his expectation that he will be recalled by the will of the French nation, and we are told from Versailles that while the Prussians wage vigorous war against the Republic, their official organ "seeks at the same time to familiarise the image of a Bonaparte Regency." This would indeed fill to the brim the cup of French calamities, but it would be not a little due to the reaction against the violence and coercion of M. Gambetta and his coadjutors on behalf of the "sacred and inviolable Republic."

The Conference on the Black Sea question announced for the 3rd, has been postponed for a few days to enable M. Jules Favre to make his way out of Paris with a German safe-conduct, and appear in the diplomatic assembly as the representative of France. It will be difficult to keep the one absorbing question of the hour out of the discussions of the plenipotentiaries. It is not unlikely that M. Favre's visit to London may facilitate that "honourable peace," which the King-Emperor at Versailles desires, especially as the assurance is still given at Prussian head-quarters that the terms exacted from France will be moderate. We can easily believe that such is the case, with the statement before us that if the masses of the German people who "yearn for peace" were

consulted, "it is not to be doubted that they would gladly accord to France terms which might fairly be accepted as honourable."

The seizure of a number of English colliers in the Seine, above Havre, was one of those untoward incidents that happen in every war. Of course our fire-eating journalists are in arms at this new humiliation of England. But in fact, the seizure is excused, if not justified, by international law or the exigencies of war, and Count Bismarck has promptly offered to our Government full indemnity and satisfaction for what at first had the appearance of an uncalled-for outrage.

The domestic incidents of the week are not exciting. We have to note the continuance—though yesterday a change seemed impending—of a frost more severe than we have known for ten years, and to lament the frequency of railway accidents, all owing to the intrusive goods trains. Mr. Cardwell has been explaining to his constituents at Oxford some of the proposals which the Government will submit to Parliament for increasing our defensive forces. They will not apparently require a very heavy outlay, but will perhaps swallow up the surplus which the flourishing state of the revenue promises to place in Mr. Lowe's hands. But we may seriously ask with Mr. Vernon Harcourt, the War Minister's colleague, who spoke with great courage and good sense at the Oxford meeting:—"How is it that, though our military and naval expenditure has increased inordinately during the last twenty years, we are ever hearing the same cry that the country is not safe?" The hon. member himself supplies the answer—either the assertion of inefficiency is unfounded, or the system which wastes such sums of money with little or no result must be essentially unsound. By grappling with the latter problem Parliament will be doing this country real service. Two other political incidents may be briefly referred to. The friends of mixed education in Ireland are quite ready to acquiesce in the removal of Mr. Chichester Fortescue from Dublin Castle, believing that he is strongly pledged to denominational education. We see also that Mr. Watkin Williams has announced that, in view of Mr. Miall's disestablishment motion, he has withdrawn his separate resolution affecting the Welsh Church.

While we are assured from Bordeaux that the Court of Berlin is instigating America to insist upon the Alabama claims, direct accounts from Washington are of the most reassuring character. General Schenck, the new Minister to England, will soon arrive in London, and he comes with the express object of reopening negotiations. The United States will, it is announced, demand no constructive damages, but will require that England shall pay the owners for the vessels and other property destroyed by the Alabama and kindred vessels, with interest from the date of destruction; that England shall reimburse the United States for all Government expenses incurred by reason of the sailing of these cruisers; and that England shall recognise this basis of settlement as containing the true principles of neutrality. Our American brethren confidently expect a speedy and satisfactory issue of these negotiations, and we are told from the other side that, on the fisheries question, Sir Edward Thornton has already received such instructions from England as will lead to a discussion of the matter this winter in Washington, and probably an amicable settlement. The closing up of all differences between the two countries would indeed be an auspicious beginning of the New Year.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

MR. BRIGHT's retirement from the Cabinet, on account of the failure of his health, naturally gave rise to curious speculations as to how the vacancy thus created would be filled. Mr. Bright's name, his reputation, his character, and the relation in which he stood to the advanced section of the Liberal party, both in Parliament and in the country, gave to his connection with Mr. Gladstone's Government an importance far beyond any that usually attaches to the possession of office by a subordinate. A very large number of active and energetic politicians in the country regarded his presence in the Cabinet as a sufficient pledge that the policy which he and his admirers have for many years striven to promote, would not be entirely disregarded by Mr. Gladstone's Government even though it might be viewed as objectionable by a majority of the Council. In authority he was hardly second to the Premier himself. In the breadth and decision of his political opinions, and in the frankness, honesty, and persistency, with which he was known to enforce them, there was thought to be a strong, if not an adequate guarantee that they would not

be thrust out of consideration by a mere preponderance of votes. Even during his illness an idea prevailed that the Government would frame its policy in general accordance with the spirit and principles which, had he been able to take part, he would have evinced and enforced. To some extent, therefore, no small section of the political world looked to the appointment of his successor, as an indication of the tone which would in future distinguish the present Administration. In substance and in bulk people were aware that it was somewhat overweighted with aristocratic pretensions. It remained to be seen whether in the rearrangement consequent upon Mr. Bright's resignation, care would be taken to compensate the advanced Liberals, as far as might be practicable, for the loss they had sustained.

We deeply regret being obliged to state our impression that the appointments recently made will not strengthen the somewhat impaired confidence with which the Gladstone Administration had already begun to be regarded by a large number of his supporters. The transference of the Marquis of Hartington to the Irish Secretariat, and of Mr. Chichester Fortescue to the Presidency of the Board of Trade, and the exclusion of the future Postmaster-General from a seat in the Cabinet, may be, for aught we know, very convenient, so far as the wishes of these gentlemen themselves may be concerned, but it will be received as anything but a fair response to the claims and wishes of those who sit below the gangway on the Ministerial side, or of the numerous and popular constituencies which they represent. The inference to be drawn, we fear, from this readjustment of Cabinet offices, is that Mr. Gladstone, whether from want of personal sympathy with a large number of his supporters, or from the necessity forced upon him by powerful Whig families, contemplates a change in the direction of his policy, which will bring him into closer harmony with those who sit upon the opposite side of the House.

It is not without great reluctance that we find ourselves unable to resist the suspicion that such may be the case. For the measures which the Premier has succeeded in passing for the better Government of Ireland, have given him a high place in the confidence and even affection of his followers. They would be deeply pained to see the supremacy of so bold and brilliant a statesman undermined, and they would be all the more pained if it should be undermined by any perversion of his ordinarily clear judgment. He can hardly suppose that the retention of Mr. Forster in the Cabinet will be accepted by his Radical friends as evidence of his desire to give them, in return for their powerful support, a proportionate share of influence in the shaping of his foreign and domestic policy. He must know, from his experience of last Session, that however advanced may be the personal opinions of the Vice-President of the Council, the disappointment which he inflicted upon the Radicals by his Elementary Education Bill of last year, and the manner in which, with the assistance of the Conservatives, he overrode their convictions, would exclude him from the category of those statesmen whom they would recognise as representing their aims. It may be a matter of convenience, and we can well believe it is, to lessen the number of Cabinet offices; but, just at this moment, when Mr. Bright's loss so seriously disturbs the relations of one section of the Liberal party to the other, it does seem a rather gratuitous aggravation of that loss, to prevent the possibility of its being partially supplied, by closing the door of the Cabinet to the Postmaster-General. However, the thing has been done; the step has been resolved upon and taken; the aristocratic element of the Cabinet has displayed its lack of sympathy with, if not its positive antipathy to, the moderately democratic element with which it is associated. Let us hope that the transaction is less significant than we are compelled to imagine it is. It is by his measures next Session that Mr. Gladstone will be judged; for it is not in the nature of things—at any rate of political things—that past services should be accepted as a satisfactory substitute for future policy.

Even if our surmises prove incorrect, we must still express our regret that Mr. Gladstone has not thought fit to do justice to the moderate claims of his more forward friends. It will take the heart out of them. It will damp their enthusiasm. It will cool their zeal. In a hundred ways he will discover the disadvantage of it when difficulties oppress him in the course of the coming Session. He cannot pretend that he has not been loyally supported. He must be aware that in some instances convictions have been reluctantly subordinated to his will. One might have anticipated from him a more grateful response. Of course, he has

foreseen the less agreeable results which will inevitably flow from the attitude of reserve and discouragement which he has taken up towards not the least faithful and disinterested of his allies. They, after all, are not so likely to embarrass him as his Conservative opponents, whom his indiscreet treatment of his own followers will be sure to stimulate into renewed efforts to supplant him. 'Tis altogether an unhappy business. It has produced a very painful impression, and it will probably depend upon the Premier himself whether that impression shall be speedily effaced, or whether it shall lead to more serious consequences.

ASSASSINATION OF MARSHAL PRIM.

THE assassination of Marshal Prim was probably the first news of importance which King Amadeus received after stepping upon the shore of his new Kingdom. The Sovereign, who may be said to be the elect of the Commander-in-Chief of the Spanish Army, must have felt that the commencement of his connection with Spain did not lack an appalling omen. Prim lived to see his last purpose accomplished, and was then hurried off the stage by the hands of assassins. It is said that he had intended to meet the new representative of Monarchy in Spain at the port where he disembarked, to resign into his hands the offices which he held, and to retire into private life. Whether he had taken such a resolution, it is not for us, without further evidence than that of common rumour, to say; but Marshal Prim has been too effectually set aside by a sudden and violent death, and the King proceeds to his capital under the conduct of a man of higher principle, if of less ability. Admiral Topete has displayed remarkable disinterestedness and patriotism in taking the place of his murdered rival. It is unquestionably a post of danger; it places him under an overwhelming and unexpected weight of responsibility. He has been from the beginning of the Revolution which drove the reigning dynasty into exile a steady and consistent advocate of the elevation of the Duc de Montpensier to the vacant throne. It is unlikely that he can have viewed the failure of his efforts with complacency, and, unreserved and honest as may be his intentions at the present moment, he can hardly be conscious of an equally powerful motive with that which would have probably actuated Marshal Prim to throw his whole soul into the cause which he has so lately espoused. We fear, the assassination of Prim bodes ill for the stability of the throne, and for the peace of Spain.

Doubtless, the universal burst of indignation which the assassination of Prim is said to have excited in Madrid, will throw a vast amount of sympathy on to the side of the youthful Monarch. His determination to proceed to the capital after he had received tidings of the Marshal's fate, notwithstanding that he was accompanied by his gentle Queen, will make a powerful appeal to the magnanimity even of his foes; but, unless we are greatly mistaken, the effect of that appeal is likely to be transient. The Republicans in Spain—a party of but recent formation and growth—have always evinced a stern determination of purpose which will not probably be set aside by any momentary outburst of sentiment. The King may be permitted to ascend the throne to which he was elected by a majority of the Cortes; to choose the members of his Ministry; to take an oath of fidelity to the Constitution; to call a normal Parliament, and to enter upon the discharge of his regal functions; but the establishment of his position will depend mainly upon the personal capacity for rule which he may be able to exhibit. No reliance can be placed upon the acquiescence of the Republicans, for the time being, in monarchical sway. The passive assent of the great bulk of the Spanish people to his occupation of the supreme post of authority over them, can hardly be counted upon, save, it may be, for negative results. The army has lost its favourite commander, but it is questionable whether the army will be long restrained by the respect it felt for Marshal Prim, and by the sympathy which it will be likely to show for the cause for which he suffered, from breaking out into acts of lawlessness which will throw discredit upon the Crown and Government. It may be that King Amadeus is a born ruler of men. As yet, however, he has had no opportunity of giving evidence to the world of the rare qualities which such a character should combine in itself. Unfortunately, two objections to his authority will, from the first, prevail most widely. His family is execrated by the Romish Priesthood, and his office is repudiated and denounced by the Republicans. He has an immense amount of stolid prejudice to over-

come, and of unscrupulous fanaticism to allay; and, for the present, he lacks that knowledge of men and parties in Spain which might guide him in steering the vessel of the State. We can only breathe an earnest prayer for him that he may not be subject to the unhappy fate of the Emperor Maximilian. Monarchy is losing something of its *prestige* in Western Europe; but it will probably be long before it is discarded as an expedient for governing the nations which have hitherto adopted it.

THE REPUBLICAN "REMONSTRANCE."

WE have read the "Remonstrance" addressed to the Prime Minister by a number of conspicuous English Radicals who are enthusiastic partisans of the French Republic with great regret, not unmixed with apprehension. Any document signed by such representative men as Mr. Ludlow, Mr. Garrison, Mr. Odger, Mr. Applegarth and Mr. Potter, is entitled to respectful attention. But we find it difficult to believe that all of the thirty-two gentlemen who have signed the address to Mr. Gladstone can be aware of the full import of the sentiments it expresses, or willing, as is plainly avowed, to plunge their country into war with the greatest Power of Europe for objects which only indirectly or remotely affect their own country.

The first grievance of the Remonstrants is that our Cabinet has refused to recognise the legitimacy of the present Government of France, and has advocated the expediency of convening a National Assembly. But, as Mr. Gladstone long ago pointed out, it would be unbecoming on the part of England to accord to the *de facto* Government of France that formal recognition which the French people have not yet given. Its members themselves do not arrogate any higher claim than that of "Government of National Defence." Though Republican in essence, the question of the future form of Government for France was expressly reserved when the war administration came into power; and if General Trochu has lately become a Republican convert, his sympathies were certainly not in that direction when he consented to become the head of the Defence Government. As to the question of a National Assembly, it seems odd that such an objection should come from politicians who are the loudest advocates of democratic institutions. Besides, have not M. Jules Favre and his colleagues from last October been anxious to consult the people of France in this constitutional fashion? Are we to assume that M. Favre at Ferrières, and M. Thiers at Versailles—both of whom sought to arrange for the election of a National Assembly—were merely the instruments of English prejudice? or to forget the disagreement between the Paris Government and the Tours Delegation on this very subject? The grave charge against the British Cabinet of urging the election of a National Assembly—which, if they did urge, was solely to facilitate negotiations for peace—and of thereby "unwarrantably interfering in the internal affairs of a foreign country," is strained and puerile. The Remonstrants overshoot the mark. They are more French than the French themselves.

The signers of the memorial next contend that as soon as it became manifest that Germany wished to dismember France, our Government should have announced their disapproval of such policy, and they assume that Earl Granville should have protested against the Prussian intention "to settle this—a truly European question—without concert with the other Powers." These gentlemen seem to forget that France plunged into war in the teeth of our strong remonstrances and thereby put us out of court. She chose to appeal to the fortunes of war, and must abide the issue. Why should we, neutrals from the first and with general approval, now adopt that policy of "interference" which the critics of the Government so strongly depurate, as applied to other circumstances? It is a French, but not "a truly European question" whether the defeated belligerent shall or shall not have a restricted frontier. It is not the first time that a nation which has gone recklessly into war has suffered dismemberment; nor can it be said that England has any paramount interest in demanding that the Rhine rather than the Vosges should be the future south-eastern boundary of France. Why is England to depart from her neutrality because France is worsted in a conflict commenced with the deliberate object of preventing Germany from constituting itself? Prussia would laugh at our barren protests, and all Europe would ridicule our indignant despatches, if they were not followed by vigorous action.

Mr. Ludlow and his friends, in their fervid sympathy with French misfortunes—or shall we say with a precarious Republic—seem to

forget that France can obtain peace to-morrow on the conqueror's terms. We may have our own opinion as to the impolicy of exacting such terms, but Prussia is entitled by the laws of war to demand, and France to refuse them. English "inaction" is not the reason why this terrible war goes on, and the assumption that united Germany will be a menace "to European peace" and "fatal, by its constitution, to European freedom" is a pure matter of opinion. Germany at least can hardly be a greater danger to Europe in the future than France has been in the past, and it may fairly be held that "the revived pretensions of Russia" will be more firmly opposed by a strong Germany, than by any other Power.

The essence of this remonstrance—to which indeed the preceding one-sided arguments are a fitting introduction—is to be found in the closing paragraph, which runs as follows:—

More immediately, we urge that the English Government should call upon that of Prussia to make peace on reasonable terms not involving the seizure of French territory. Failing this, in our opinion, without further delay, England should join France in her resistance, and declare war against Prussia to aid France in resuming that position among the Western Powers to which she is rightly entitled, and which has been recognised by English Statesmen in former settlements of Europe.

We stand aghast at this reckless advice. What interest have British artisans in the question of a few thousand miles more or less of French territory? Do they suppose that the existence, position, greatness of France, depend upon her retention of Alsace and the eastern part of Lorraine? We might, or might not, if we took part with the French, help to turn the fortunes of war against the successful belligerent. At all events we could not materially injure Prussia with our powerful fleet, and the 40,000 men we could throw upon the French coast might be speedily "crumpled up" by the armed legions of Germany. More probably our interference would bring Russia into the field on the other side, and thus light up a European conflagration. The signers of this Remonstrance ought to have considered that imminent contingency ere they proffered the advice which necessarily involves it. The slaughter of thousands were of soldiers, the horrors of war increased tenfold, unspeakable misery, the industry of all Europe paralysed, desolate homes, accumulating debt, and military supremacy everywhere—such is the prospect which the acceptance of this audacious policy holds out. And all this risk is to be incurred—this possibility of such a frightful conflict as the world has never witnessed incurred—in order that French territory might remain intact! That representative working men can be found to advocate a course which, on such a flimsy pretext, would grind their order to the dust throughout Europe, is deplorable evidence of shortsighted infatuation. In such recklessness we find abundant proof that the championship of democratic views is not necessarily allied with sound statesmanship, and reason for devout thankfulness that the destinies of England are not in the keeping of our Republican Remonstrants.

ENGLISH HOME WANTS.

It would be a good thing if we could now and then see ourselves with the eyes of others—the result could not fail to be occasionally to our advantage. However ready we may be to detect the mote in our brother's eye, we are less hasty in discovering the beam in our own. It has long been a standard point of belief in this country that the charms and comforts of domestic life are comparatively unknown in France; that the Frenchman, being accustomed to live almost perpetually in public, is almost a stranger to the joys and pleasures of home. How strange, then, must it have appeared to many of us to find a French lady taking us to task on the very points of our fancied superiority, and lecturing us on our home deficiencies, especially among the labouring classes.

I have been (says our French lady) for the last three months living in England—alternately in the country north and south, in a country town and in lodgings by the seaside. Everywhere the same feature of English life has struck me, whether staying with rich friends or inquiring into much humbler spheres of life—the incapacity of Englishwomen in what we Frenchwomen consider to be the first duties of our every-day life: knowing how to mend, to cut out, to sew, to knit, to wash, to cook, to look nice, and make all around you look nice, even with the smallest means. It saddens and disgusts me to see the rags, the old finery, the dirty clothes in which children (your lovely English children we should be so proud of), girls, and even men, go about, without the slightest apparent sense of shame, and which could be repaired with a few moments' labour, or a needle and thread—why, then, wives and mothers ought to be ashamed of themselves and the degrading want of trouble on their part. And from all I see, it is not that they do not care about fine clothes and smart dressing when

they can get it. No; they will buy new clothes as soon as they can afford them; but no woman seems to consider it her first duty to mend and keep clean those garments which her husband's wages have hardly earned, and which her lazy and unclean fingers do not care to preserve tidy to the end. How I wish some of your good English wives (honest, brave souls, with, perhaps, more sterling virtues than many a French one), who let their husbands go to their daily work with dirty and unmended shirts, tattered vests, and torn socks—how I wish they could see many a French "blouse," old, worn, and faded, but neatly patched, cleanly washed, tidily repaired by the active fingers of our "*ménagères*!" That is the word, that is the quality which, to my mind, is so missing in English households—high and low.

All this is true, very true, but it is only what has been said over and over again by those engaged in the work of ameliorating the social condition of the English labouring poor. When, during the Lancashire Cotton Famine, sewing-classes were formed for the purpose of relieving the unemployed factory girls, nothing could be more deplorable than the ignorance of ordinary needlework displayed by many of them. There were some who had never before used a needle. And so in other domestic matters. The art of making the simplest pies and puddings was utterly unknown to some. However efficient they might be in the factory, they were worse than useless at home. And so in the metropolis. During the distress which prevailed last winter in East London, the establishment of sewing-classes yielded results precisely the same as in Lancashire. The simplest domestic arts appear utterly unknown to vast numbers of our industrial population. The workman's wife very frequently finds herself, from sheer ignorance, unable to prepare a comfortable meal for her husband, to repair his clothing, or to render his home attractive. No wonder the public-house should prove so inviting to the husbands of such wives. It would be strange if it were otherwise. Yet none possess greater aptitude for acquiring a knowledge of domestic duties than the Englishwoman. But how can she perform that which she has never learned? Perhaps her mother was as ignorant as herself; possibly more so, for it is only within the last few years that proper attention has been given to such matters. Perhaps, when a child, she had to assist in increasing the family income by her tiny labour in the workshop or the factory; devoting to ungirlish toil the hours which should have been passed at school, or in assisting in household work. Workmen who have married domestic servants, often find themselves in possession of comfortable homes, where they can obtain decent meals, and where the expenditure does not outstrip the income. These, however, are the exceptions. But why should they be such? A similar question might be asked of families occupying a much higher social position. If Mary Jones, the bricklayer's wife, is deplorably ignorant of domestic economy, are we sure that Mrs. Bullion, the stockbroker's spouse, or her daughters, the Misses Bullion, are much wiser. True, they can converse in French, are expert at croquet-playing, are versed in the mysteries of crochet, and can rattle through the last new fashionable ballad; but do they know anything of kitchen routine? could any of them, single-handed, prepare the simplest meal for the family? We fear not. And when the rich are ignorant, why blame the poor for not being wise? How can the blind lead the blind? Mrs. Bullion, in her own ignorance, can neither advise Mary Jones on the domestic arts, nor properly appreciate the importance of such advice. Here we have the secret of professional men frequently complaining that their incomes are insufficient to maintain them in comfort. Although placed at the opposite end of the social scale, Mr. Bullion suffers precisely the same discomforts and troubles that drive Joe Brown to the public-house. In time, he becomes bankrupt and is ruined for life, even as Joe Brown, on the first touch of misfortune, finds himself driven to the workhouse. How is the remedy to be found, and the charms of home-life rendered a pleasant reality instead of a poetic fiction? It is a question of vital importance, but we suspect the answer will be long in arriving, for it is slow and difficult work undoing the effects of an evil which has been for generations allowed to have its own way without check or restraint.

GERMANY AND FRANCE.

[In sending us the subjoined verses for insertion, our esteemed correspondent, "W. K.", remarks:—"On the 19th ult. the *Pall Mall Gazette* inserted some very bitter lines against the Germans, which the editor called "a pretty piece of invective," stating, at the same time, that all he knew about them was that they issued from the Garrick Club. That you may not have to make the same confession of ignorance, I enclose my name and address, and assume all the responsibility of the sentiments contained in the following lines,

simply reiterating the oft-used precept, *Audi alteram partem.*"]

"VETEREM FERENDO INJURIAM, INVITAS NOVAM."

I.

Germany! dear Fatherland!
What wilt thou from the foe demand,
When helpless at thy foot she lies,
Quell'd by defeat those eagle eyes;
Say, what shall be the victor's prize?
Long on Procrustes' bed wast thou
Stretch'd by the foe that fears thee now,
That then, remorseless, fell, and strong,
Cut off the limbs that were too long,
Then spread her robber arms abroad,
Her law the sword, and greed her god!

II.

Whatever lands from thee were lost,
By royal fraud or priestly theft,
By monarchs great in naught but vice,
Or venal priests who, at a price,
Sold all their country's rights and man's,
And shared the spoil with courtesans;
(While o'er thy head, by hands like these,
Was hung the sword of Damocles!)—
Whatever lands were lost from thee
By russians trained to robbery,
And sent by greater ruffians forth,
From east to west, from south to north,
As if from some accursed shore,
Foul legions o'er the earth should pour,
Led by a king, a priest, a whore!
Whate'er, with hellish lust of gain,
Plying their savage trade amain,
The robbers took, take thou again!

III.

Germany! thy ravish'd lands
Are thine again; and in thy hands
Will guard thy daughters and thy sons
From moribund Napoleons.—
Dicers, who for their tottering thrones
Play foul, and scoff at human groans!
Will guard thy homes from fire and waste
And murder, that in days gone—past,
The foe that feels thy heavy hand
Hath brought full oft on Fatherland.

IV.

"While 'mid the dying and the dead,
France bows to earth her graceful head,
And inch by inch, and day by day,
Besieger'd Paris wastes away,"
And "holy William" dares to pray!
While Bismarck plots and Moltke schemes,
And poor Gambetta lies and dreams;
While a great nation's hopes and fears,
And all her agony and tears,
Like melting snowflakes fall upon
Devouring Revolution;
While England strives, alas! too late,
The o'erwhelming torrent to abate,
And, failing thus to stem the tide,
Sends "rage and lint" and men beside,
To all but those who coldly sneer
At human woe, and shed no tear!
While Russia bides her time to break
Her plighted oath, but dares not take
What yet her arms desire to infold
(The thief is seldom very bold),
And, treading on a hidden fire,
Starts back with smother'd pain and ire
While thus, amid the din of war,
The nations plot and "Bismarck's ear"
Rolls surely to the Tuilleries,
"Twere well to catch one favouring breeze,
Bringing the storm-toss'd world a breath
Of hope amid despair and death.

V.

"Reap as ye sow!" 'Tis just and right!
And France shall yet behold the sight
Of glorious harvests, when she sows
The seed from which such harvest grows;
When royal butchers shall not be
The gods of her idolatry;
When Frenchmen learn that they must fight
Not for *la gloire* but for the right,
And peace to welcome more than war,
Whether for right or for *la gloire*;
When, claiming Alsace and Lorraine,
With logic which they now disdain,
They cede Savoy and Nice again;
When they can see their robberies
And others' spoils with equal eyes;
Then shall their honest sowings yield
A glorious crop in every field.

VI.

Oh, France! "thy graceful head" is low,
Down in the dust! but thy worst foe,
Who brought thee to the brink of fate,
Robb'd, naked, bound, inanimate,
Now waits his doom in shameful state.
Low lies thy head! but lower still
It lay beneath the tyrant's will;
What deeper, fouler, worse abyss
Than bondage to a rule like his?

Now art thou free ; but freedom brings
Wounding, not "healing on her wings";
To live in agony of strife
Is worse than death, but yet 'tis life !
Thy chains are off, thy lim's are free,
But, through our tears, we shuddering see
"The sweat of thy great agony!"
Die thou to live ! The passion o'er,
Thou shalt be greater than before,
Gain by thy loss, for thou shalt see
The jewel that adversity
Brings in her wither'd hand to thee!

W. K.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

On Saturday morning, Her Majesty's New Year's gifts to the poor of Windsor were distributed in the Riding School at Windsor Castle. Three thousand two hundred pounds of beef were presented to 790 recipients, and twelve-hundred and five hundred weights of coal sent to their homes.

The Queen has fixed Wednesday, the 29th of March as the day on which she proposes to open the Royal Albert Hall at Kensington.

The Prince of Wales returned to Sandringham on Saturday, and is this week entertaining a number of distinguished guests.

Mr. Chichester Fortescue has accepted the office of President of the Board of Trade, and the Marquis of Hartington that of Chief Secretary for Ireland. The Cabinet, which, during the illness and absence of Mr. Bright, was temporarily increased, will consist, as heretofore, of fifteen members. The office of Postmaster-General will be held by a Minister without a seat in the Cabinet.

—Mr. Cardwell is again much talked of as the future Speaker, and it is thought not unlikely that Government may try to get a seat for Sir W. Mansfield, the Commander-in-Chief in Ireland, with the view of making him Secretary-at-War. Certainly among soldiers and old Indian administrators, Sir W. Mansfield is pointed out as the man who is best fitted to reorganise the War Departments.

Mr. Childers is somewhat better, though still suffering from the weakness occasioned by his recent attack.

A committee has been appointed, with Captain Beaumont, R.E., M.P., as president, and Lieutenant Grove, R.E., and Mr. Abel, F.R.S., as members, to carry out experiments on the utilisation of balloons for reconnoitring purposes.

Mr. William Cox, the proprietor of the *Leicester Advertiser* and other papers, died suddenly on Friday midnight, whilst writing at his desk.

The new halfpenny post has necessitated a large addition to the staff of the circulation branch of the Post Office. The authorities accordingly advertise for 130 boy sorters.

The subject for the Cambridge gold medal poem next year will be "Sedan."

Lord Henry Bentinck died suddenly on Saturday, at Tattersall Hall, near Louth, Lincolnshire. His lordship was in his sixty-seventh year. He was well known as a sportsman.

A Dublin letter says:—"The transfer of the Irish Secretaryship from Mr. Fortescue to the Marquis of Hartington, will give satisfaction in Ireland. Mr. Fortescue was popularly considered as a doubtful friend to the principle of mixed education, which has a strong hold of the minds of the independent political class. The Marquis of Hartington, on the other hand, is believed to be more firmly attached to it."

The *Daily Telegraph* states that Miss E. Garrett, M.D., member of the London School Board, will shortly be married to Mr. James G. S. Anderson, of London and Morpeth. This gentleman took an active part in Miss Garrett's election.

The *Boston Traveller* is an express admirer of General Butler. It says his style of speech-making and letter-writing is the "harum-scarum-helter-skelter, knock-down-and-drag-out, one-down-another-come-on, go-it-ye-cripples style."

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.—It is understood that there are an immense number of candidates for the clerkship of the London School Board. Applications are received up to Monday, the 5th of January. Amongst those who offered themselves are: —Mr. G. H. Croad, B.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, secretary to the Bishop of London's Fund; Mr. E. B. Litchfield, barrister; Mr. B. Clarke; Captain W. Dawson, Secretary of the Lay Helpers' Association; Mr. C. Macheson; Dr. W. C. Bennett; Mr. W. H. Warwick, Secretary of the National Orphan Home; the Rev. W. H. Aubrey; Mr. E. Pears; Mr. J. M. Hare, jun., Captain F. Petrie; Mr. J. Standish Haly, Mr. S. Hague, LL.B.; Mr. T. Wright, Mr. C. Fenn, Mr. T. B. Bishop, Mr. R. Hill, the Rev. C. Morison, Mr. M. Walbrook, and several of the vestry clerks of the metropolis. Their various claims are being examined by a committee. Another committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Thomas Tilson, has been considering the manner in which the Board may most advantageously transact the business. The next meeting of the Board is fixed for the 6th of January, and, either on that day or shortly afterwards, Professor Huxley will move the appointment of a committee to consider a scheme of education to be recommended for adoption in the elementary schools connected with the Board.

Literature.**COMPLETE TRIUMPH OF MORAL GOOD OVER EVIL.***

This book reached us immediately after the appearance of our review of Dr. John Young's book on the same subject. We did not notice it then, because it is worthy of a far more extended treatment than the "brief notice" which, under such circumstances, was all it would have received. Afterwards, the autumn holidays, and still later, the publication of Christmas gift-books, induced us further to delay reviewing it; for we wished to give it a fair introduction to our readers. The importance and interest of the subject, the freshness, the intelligence, the candour, the confidence, and the enthusiasm which the author displays, unite to give the book a high place in the modern literature of the controversy with which it is concerned.

The main position of the book is indicated in its title. The author supports his belief that all God's moral creatures will ultimately be brought into holy and happy reconciliation with Him by an array of passages of Scripture that will be very impressive to the candid, and very startling to the prejudiced. He refuses to acknowledge that there would be a universal reign of Christ unless all spirits owned and delighted in His sway. The spirituality of Christ's kingdom, as declared in His own words, "My kingdom is not of this world," compels us to reject the notion of triumph by "physical repression," to believe that His reign over all things must be such "as it is in heaven." Dean Alford says, "the words 'gather together in one, all things in Christ,' refer to the 'gathering of all individuals, not to any restoration. . . Those who are not His spiritually, in mere subjugation, yet consciously.' I do not know what he means by 'mere subjugation.' Olshausen, when speaking of subjugation, says, 'the enemy is only truly vanquished, when he is transformed into a friend; the plus of power cannot be a reason for Christ's victory, for that was his from the beginning.' The energy by which this transformation of the sinful is to be effected is the power of the spirit of God. Divine grace is believed by the author, with the Calvinists, to be absolutely efficacious; but it is to be applied so as to develop, not to crush, freewill and personality. Hence, although it is certain to subdue, by converting, the most abandoned, the period of his struggle may be indefinitely prolonged. The means by which the restoration is to be accomplished, are the labours and sacrifices of the redeemed in a future life. "The principle of election has been introduced for "the purpose of making it possible to render moral evil an instrument of salutary discipline for the intellectual and emotional faculties of the universe. It is a measure of distinctive selection, the operation of which confers exceptional benefits on its objects, not only for their own welfare, but also with the view of carrying out the permanent welfare of all the intelligent creation." The author, who makes the complaint (a complaint which he would not make if he were better acquainted with theological discussions in this country), that this view of election is not known among our churches, contemplates these as the designs of election. "The elect are to exhibit elevating principles and softening influences. They are to show the uses of suffering. They are to exhibit the principle of self-sacrifice on a living reality. That principle will operate in a future life."

"Christ was 'made a curse for us' (Gal. iii. 18); and the Apostle Paul was willing to be accursed from Christ, to be cast out from Christ as an accursed thing. The solemnity of the declaration, and the earnest appeal to the Holy Spirit, indicate to my mind that these words portray, not merely peculiar emotions belonging to an individual, but the spirit of self-sacrifice, which will be awakened and developed in all those who are strongly impressed by the love of God, as manifested in the wondrous plan of salvation. Can we imagine that an elevated, holy, and compassionate being, under the influence of such feelings, would look down on the burning lake and rejoice? No: he would plunge into it; or, in other words, he would be animated in such a measure by the influence of the love of Christ, and by tenderness and compassion for those who were suffering from that which had imperilled his own safety and happiness, that he would be willing to endure privations, dangers, and sufferings of the most painful nature, in order to exhibit to those who were in an abyss of guilt, darkness, and depravity the ineffable wisdom, benignity, and tenderness of God."

"The fond memories of this life will not be extinguished in the regions beyond the tomb; and it may be that the redeemed will be permitted to exhibit Divine truth, purity, and love to the objects of their earthly tenderness; that those among the redeemed whose

* *Complete Triumph of Moral Good over Evil*. (London: Longmans, Green, and Co.)

pervasive and evil conduct has destroyed souls, will strive agonisingly for their recovery, during many weary ages, meeting with mockery, scorn, and hatred, until the happy hour when softening beams from the great Source of goodness will melt obduracy and malignity; and that lofty, energetic spirits, of widely expanding benevolence and love, will go forth as conquerors, beneath the smile of God, unfurling the glorious banner of redemption, and labouring with self-sacrificing ardour, even as Paul among the Gentiles."

It will be seen, from the extract just quoted, that there is no lack of deterrent influences in the Theological system of the Author; and that in his statement of it, the doctrine of ultimate restoration is not a license to sin. Indeed, as George MacDonald has well pointed out, the notion of a continued strife of God and the good with them until they have yielded and abandoned their evil ways, is more terrible to sinners than the notion of being finally left to themselves in punishment. It is the struggle with sin that transgressors dread even more than its consequences. In this struggle God is represented, by our author, as deeply and really entering. His remarks on the "Sufferings of the Divine Nature" are among the truest and most profound things in his whole volume. He ventures to break a lance with Athanasius, and insists that the Incarnation is emptied of its meaning, if it be not regarded as declaring that "the Divine Nature participated in the grief and sufferings of the human nature."

"Systematic theology has endeavoured to crush natural sentiments by inventing the imaginary axiom, that even sympathetic sorrow would be derogatory to the divinity of the Godhead, and that suffering is inconsistent with happiness. When we recur to analogies of the purest and most elevated kind in human life, we sometimes witness the suffering of a tender, sympathetic mother, when applying remedial measures which inflict pain upon a loved child, and perceive that she may be essentially happy if she feels certain that the painful remedy will effect a cure. We also sometimes see a human being joyfully undergoing privation and pain to free another from suffering, or to promote the welfare of one who is loved. We ought not to imagine that the happiness of the most exalted of Beings would consist in imperturbable serenity, but rather in the blending of exquisite sensibilities with clearness of judgment, elevated moral qualities, and strength of will. I venture to deny that our conceptions of the grandeur and glory of the Deity are lowered by the supposition that the Creator has voluntarily subjected Himself to sacrifice and suffering for the good of His creatures. On the contrary, I have an earnest conviction that, in proportion as this great and affecting truth, which is so impressively taught in the New Testament, reaches and penetrates the intellects and hearts of the intelligent creation, the coldness and malignity which sin has engendered will be dissipated by the all-conquering energy of that immeasurable love, and will be transformed into responsive warmth."

That which distinguishes this book from others on the same subject is the development of an argument somewhat in the style of Mr. Lecky's "History of Rationalism." The practical ethics of Christendom, the author affirms, are far in advance of its theological creed; and the practical ethics, formed entirely under the influence of the Gospel, are the real representative of the power of the Gospel on the world. The wide-spread unbelief of the time he traces to a secret discontent produced by this incongruity. Many of his statements here are far too sweeping: he seems wholly unable to appreciate a metaphysical argument, but on the whole he has developed this theme with fulness and with accuracy. The growing dislike of war and of capital punishments, the distrust of repression and the desire for the amendment of criminals, the perception of the spiritual nature of Christ's kingdom over all cited as illustrations of the practical teaching of Christianity:—

"Having altered our opinions on the important subjects to which I have adverted, we find in effect (although, perhaps, with only a dim consciousness as yet) that our modified sentiments are not in harmony with the theological dogmas which we have inherited. Although our confidence in physical force has been greatly impaired, as regards the adjustment of political and social difficulties, we are still required to believe that coercion of the most painful nature, embodying our idea of physical force in its most violent form, will be applied with overwhelming power for the regulation of the deeply momentous questions of eternity."

From this brief extract our readers will be able to see the author's argument on this point. Two more quotations will show what a hold this practical idea has upon his mind:—

"Our forefathers handed down slavery to us; and they also handed down certain systems of theology. I contend that their views on slavery were consistent with their schemes of religious dogmas. The abolition of slavery would never have been effected by the class of sentiments which those dogmas inspired, as there was no sense of incongruity produced. That sense of incongruity has resulted from the direct and free perusal of the Scriptures by the community at large, in some of the most important countries of Christendom, during the last three hundred years."

Thus, too, he quotes and reasons on Calvin's interpretation of Paul's teaching that "God shall be all in all."

"For the present, as the devil resists God, as wicked men confound and disturb the order which He has established, and as endless occasions of offence present themselves to our view, it does not distinctly appear that God is all in all; but when Christ shall have

executed the judgment which has been committed to Him by the Father, and will have cast down Satan and all the wicked, the glory of God will be conspicuous in their destruction.' It is evident, as I have already remarked, that his idea of order did not require that the intellect and heart of the whole universe should be brought under the harmonising sway of light, purity, and love. In the cruel and ferocious age of Calvin, a community was considered very orderly if evil-doers were shut up in strong dungeons, and were prevented from molesting the well-disposed, even though no measures of reformation were adopted."

It is in the development of this argument that the strength of the author is seen; in the facts he here alludes to lies the hope that brighter notions, more consistent with the Gospel, will prevail on the subject of the destiny of the universe.

The reader may notice an absence of literary skill in the volume we introduce to him. The author has some strange fancies as to the nature of man, and some of his remarks on philosophical topics indicate only a partial acquaintance with the writings of the authors he criticises. Thus on page 364 he says, "No one has attempted, 'I think, to show the co-existence of necessity and freedom in affecting the discipline of 'humanity'; and immediately after, he says that Sir William Hamilton's advocacy of free-will does not strike him "as very clear and cogent." Sir W. Hamilton has, as students of him know, suggested, in at least one pregnant passage the very co-existence of necessity and freedom which our author has not observed in any philosopher's writings. Notwithstanding these minor blemishes, however, we commend this book as wise, weighty, and timely. It is a very significant fact that intelligent laymen should publish such treatises; it should suggest to the churches and their ministers that discussion on this subject can no longer be delayed.

A DRAMA OF TO-DAY.*

Nothing is more common than to hear remarks about the necessity of remoteness in subjects chosen for poetical treatment. Mr. Nathaniel Hawthorne, for instance, was constantly expressing his sense of the modernness or recency of American history, lamenting the lack of shadows and middle tones whereby alone the finest effects are attainable. But, happily, if this was not a delusion on Hawthorne's part, he was able to overcome it with such cunning that certain phases of American life and aspects of American history are now as charged with romantic associations as anything in classic or mediæval history. Socialism and spiritualism surely were in themselves unromantic enough; yet "Blithedale" breathes the very aroma of romance; and the stern significance that arises out of its gathering mystery and pathos, as the strong woman goes down in the grasp of something very like fate, and the weak Priscilla rises, or rather is raised, into the much-envied position, gives to its closing the severe grandeur of classic tragedy. It is a lyrical drama in its own way, in which the complex conditions of modern life acknowledge themselves secondary to something—call it Providence or call it Fate—which restores the simplicity of *motif* otherwise lost in the awful sense of some imperious, overruling power. The clinging to romantic and classic themes and styles is a confession akin to Hawthorne's; but most of the men who go in for these fail to disprove the force of their own words by practically showing, as Hawthorne did, that the present time is at once as near and as remote as is the Past, if the poet can but bring to it the proper atmosphere.

The remoteness, after all, lies in the atmosphere of the poet's imagination. Here is Mr. Buchanan giving his opinion, not in the form of dissertation or critical statement; but in the way the poet ought to give it, by dealing imaginatively with events, so as to reveal their secret reference to past and to future—in short their deep human significance as distinct from their temporary and immediate effects. In the present gigantic conflict events have succeeded each other with such amazing rapidity that the latest one, like a comparatively small object set close to the eye, has shut out the former one, so that the idea of a real sequence or providential connection has been to a great extent lost. Mr. Buchanan has aimed high—no less high indeed, than to exhibit the real bearing of these events in their relation to the deepest laws. For this end he has made Napoleon a witness at once for himself and against himself. He has chosen the classic form with a certain freedom of expedient and expression, which fits in well with the genuine modern spirit of the conception. But there are here and there true touches of the classic spirit, especially in the way in which the idea of an overruling power is pre-

sented in the linking of the fall of the Papal power with the defeat of the Emperor. Quite of this quality, too, is the reflection that if France is victorious all chance of restoration for the Napoleons is shut out; and that their only hope lies in its utter humiliation and defeat. The disrowned Emperor, who went into the war with such high hopes—taking his boy with him to get his "baptism of fire"—can only cherish the hope of restoration in the event of the complete and total sweeping away of all the expectations which led him to make declaration of war. The essence of the tragic idea lies in this, and Mr. Buchanan's utterance of it is very fine. The subtle-minded, irresolute man, hungering for power, yet stricken under the red scourge of humiliation and failure, has only one hope, one prayer, that France may fail in her self-defence. He has thrown himself into the enemy's hands; if France would but ignobly do so likewise, he might yet rule. But the thought is hardly of the kind to steady the vacillating will. He dreams and doubts and wavers amid sleepless hours of night, and he sneers at the valour of France. This is his reflection aside on hearing from a messenger of the proclamation of the Republic:—

"Now, may the foul fiend blacken all the air
Above these Frenchmen, with revolt and fear
Darken alike the wits of friends and foes,
With swift confusion and with anarchy
Disturb their fretful counsels, till at last
Many-tongued, wild-hair'd, mad and horrible,
With fiery eyes and naked crimson limbs,
Uprise the old Spectre of the Red.
And as of yore uplift the shameful Knife
To stab unhappy France; then, in her need,
Fearful and terror-stricken, France shall call
On him who gave her nineteen years of sleep.
And he may rise again."

Napoleon snatches a fatal joy in glorying over the cowards whom he has ruled these nineteen years; and he sees that if they now prove themselves truly brave, it is a reflection of the terriblest kind on his Government. To "an officer" who tells him with what almost miraculous bravery Frenchmen are defending themselves, he responds in the same spirit. The officer is representative, so we give some words of his also:—

"OFFICER.

"Sire,
Behold me on my knees, tears in my eyes,
And sorrow in my heart. My life is thine,
My life, my heart, my soul are pledged to thine:
And trebly now doth thy calamity
Hold me thy slave and servant. If I pray
'Tis that thou may'st arise, and thou shalt rise;
And if I praise our common mother, France,
Who for the moment hath forgot her lord,
'Tis that my soul rejoices for thy sake,
That, when thou comest to thine own again,
Thy realm shall be a realm regenerant,
Baptized, a fair thing worthy of thy love
In its own blood of direful victory."

"NAPOLEON,

Say'st thou?—Rise?—Friend, thou art little skilled
In reading that abstruse astrology
Whereby our cunning politicians cast
The fate of Kings. France robed in victory,
Is France for ever lost to our great house.
France fallen, is France that with my secret hand
I may uplift again. But tell thy tale
Most freely: let thy soul beat its free wings
Before me as it lists. Come! as thou say'st,
France is no coward; she hath arisen."

The mind that had only governed through the vices and weaknesses of others, ceases to believe in any other medium of government, and is beaten in its inmost hold when the soul in a nation rises up, strong, and true, and brave. The momentum of Mr. Buchanan's dramatic conception lies here, we conceive. Very striking, in the last long monologue of Napoleon, is the acknowledgment that no ill-means can justify an end, however good—that such means are self-sabotaging and terribly self-avenging. And yet with the casuistry of all such keen, over-exercised ambitious minds it turns upon itself to find a sort of secret justification:—

"I am lost
By the damned implements mine own hands wrought—
Things that were made as slavish tools of peace,
Never as glittering weapons meet for war.
He never stooped to use such peaceful tools!
But, for all uses,
Made the sword serve him—yea, for sceptre and scythe;
Nay, more, for scripture and for counselor.

Yet he too fell. Early or late all fall.
No fruit can hang for ever on the tree.
Daily the tyrant and the martyr meet
Naked at Death's door, with the fatal mark,
Both brows being branded. Doth the world then sly
Only its anarchie? Doth the lightning flash
Smite Caesar and spare Brutus? Nay, by Heaven!
Rather the world keeps for its parasites
Torture more subtle and more pitiless doom
Than it dispenses to its torturers.
Tiberius, with his foot on the world's neck,
Smileth his cruel smile and growth gray,
Half dead already with the weight of years,
Drincketh the death he is too frail to feel,
While in his noon of life the Man Divine
Hath died in anguish at Jerusalem."

Mr. Buchanan may be right, or he may be

wrong in his conception of Napoleon; but he has produced a very stately and finished poem. It has unity, severity, grace. He has made excellent use of the Strophes. Some of these are conceived in the very spirit of the classic drama. This Chorus of the Dead is, in our opinion, very striking and very beautiful:—

"Where we sleeping lie, where we sleeping lie,
We hear the sound, and our spirits cry;
As we sleeping lie in the Lord's own Breast—
Calm, so calm, for the place is blest.
We, who died that this might be,
Souls of the great, and wise, and free;
Souls that sang and souls that sighed,
Souls that pointed to God and died;
Souls of martyrs, souls of the wise;
Souls of women with weeping eyes;
Souls whose graves, like waves of the sea,
Cover the world, from west to east,
Souls whose bodies ached painfully,
Till they broke to prophetic moan and ceased;
Souls that sleep in the gentle night,
We hear the cry and we see the light!
Did we die in vain? Did we die in vain?
Ah! that indeed were the bitterest pain!
But no, but no, 'twere a father's guilt,
If a drop of our blood was vainly spilt.
Not a life, nay, not a breath,
But killed some shape of terror and death;
And we see the light, and we bless the cry,
Where we sleeping lie, where we sleeping lie."

"DOROTHY FOX."*

Miss Parr has evidently had more experience of life than of practice in literary form; but she has produced a very good novel. It is full of knowledge, presents character with freedom and fulness of resource; and, if it errs a little on the side of extravagance and exaggeration here and there, we have certainly a compensating balance of freshness and dash. Throughout, the writing is piquant; the dialogue is smart and racy. No one can read it without feeling that the writer has possibilities of which we have even here only the suggestion. This is saying much; but if it seems too high praise, something in qualification we may perceive, have to put in before we close.

Quaker life, just beginning to free itself a little from the old-fashioned formal restrictions, is here brought into contact with "society." In this way. An officer just returned from the Crimean war with wounds, has got out for the first time in Plymouth; and having walked too far, is overtaken with faintness. He enters a glover's shop, where he sinks down unconscious. He is kindly waited on by the daughter of the proprietor—Dorothy Fox—the heroine of the story, and the servant Judith. Captain Verschoyle is smitten with the childlike simplicity and unconscious beauty and grace of Dorothy; and finds excuses for seeing her again. He even interests his sister in her. But Lady Laura Verschoyle, the mother, is a worldly woman and confirmed match-maker. She has in her eye for Charlie an heiress—Miss Bingham; and for her daughter Audrey an old man, Richard Ford, who has risen from the lower ranks and purchased the estate which once belonged to the Dynecourts. At Dynecourt Audrey meets the dispossessed Dynecourt, and falls in love with him and he with her. On the other hand, the Foxes have betrothed Dorothy to Josiah Crewdson, a rich and respectable Quaker, though awkward and not exactly prepossessing. But now, whenever Dorothy thinks of Josiah, the attractive image of a young officer rises before her imagination; and soon her mother comes to see that her affections have wandered from Josiah. Circumstances strangely bring Captain Verschoyle and Dorothy together, and at her sister's house, he has an opportunity of declaring his affection for her. But she knows her father will never allow her to marry a soldier. The reader can easily see that here there is room for diversions and complications enough. We will not occupy our space or wrong our author by detailing these, but only say that Audrey Verschoyle—a very excellently developed character, with a vein of genuine womanliness under all her artificiality—does not marry Mr. Ford, but Geoffrey Dynecourt; and that Dorothy Fox does not marry Josiah but the officer. The way in which the story is developed is exceedingly good; and the manner in which Lady Laura is managed by Mr. Egerton finally, after Captain Verschoyle does show the true spirit, is excellent.

The Quaker life, for most part, is painted with delicacy and tenderness. Patience Fox is admirable, and stands out with quiet dignity and sweet self-reliance; managing her somewhat stubborn husband in quite a surprising way. How chaste and fresh, for example, is that little bit of dialogue which takes place between Patience and her daughter, Dorothy, just after they had received that first visit from Josiah Crewdson, when the girl asked her mother, "Mother, wert thou ever in love?" But

* Dorothy Fox. By LOUISA PARR. (Strahan.)

* Napoleon Fallen. A Lyrical Drama. By ROBERT BUCHANAN. (Strahan and Co.)

this cannot be said without some serious qualification of a great part of the story. It is, in our opinion, spoiled by forced effects. A determination to be broadly humorous now and again diminishes the delicacy which might have been attained by a somewhat soberer treatment. A whole group of the characters are rendered unnatural through this straining. The old bachelor uncle of Captain Verschoyle, Mr. Egerton, just manages to escape, and he is, in our idea, imitable. With Lady Laura and Josiah Crewdson we are compelled to find grave faults; because the authoress could have done so much better had she yielded less to her most conspicuous tendency. To endow Josiah Crewdson with so little that is attractive to a young girl—to make him so clumsy, stupid, and nervous—was surely the very way to render Dorothy's course easy; thus sacrificing what might have been an element of interest.

The mistake as to Lady Laura is seen in the fact, that Miss Parr carries into actual utterance what might perhaps have consistently figured as her ladyship's secret thoughts (or have taken the form of *asides*, if novels, like the drama, allowed of such). We are ever and anon a little surprised at inconsistencies which verge on vulgarisms. Is it possible, for example, that the sharp matchmaker, the accomplished woman of society, who tucks and trims, and so successfully sets her sails to every fair wind, could fall to this level in conversation. Lady Laura might very well feel as vulgar; she surely was too sharp and clever to have allowed herself to speak so. Here is the peccant piece of dialogue:—

"Well," says Audrey, the daughter, "Charley would be very sorry if he vexed you; but if he knew he could not like Miss Bingham"—"

"Now, Audrey, if you are bent upon irritating me, I desire that you will leave the room; my nerves can't stand it. Like Miss Bingham, indeed, I should like to know how long you have taken to consider matrimony in this light. Charles knew that I used every effort to introduce him to a nice-looking girl with 50,000*£* of her own, besides expectations. She immediately fell in love with him, received his very pointed attentions most graciously, and then, when everything was going on smoothly, suddenly he takes some ridiculous idea into his head that he is afraid he cannot love her, and he must go away to prove his passion. Well, all the time he is absent, I entirely sacrifice myself to his interests, never leaving her; and let me tell you it's not so very agreeable to be tied down to a namby-pamby girl from morning till night; no one but a mother would do it."

"But, mamma, you forget you wanted Charley to take this same girl for life."

"I want no argument, Audrey; and it is only your perverse temper that makes you defend him. You know perfectly well what I mean," &c.

This is exceedingly clever, and perhaps it is true; but assuredly it is not true as thus presented. It may in a certain way, be true to life, but it is not true to art; and very much of the true delicacy of art vanishes with it. Thackeray, for example, exposed very mean and ingrained motives in people of fashion and of rank; but he took good care not to charge his dialogue with more than its own share of the vulgarity and sordidness. He knew life and character far too well for that.

Miss Parr has an uncontrollable tendency to mere exaggeration, without purpose. "How it all Happened," betrayed this bent; but in "Dorothy Fox" it is excessive. She can deal with life in the most tender and serious manner; but she slides off from it so suddenly into this other vein that the best portions of the book are grotesquely shadowed by alien impressions. You can't very well have tragedy and screaming farce in one, without incongruity and contradiction. "How it all happened" was a delicately-wrought little domestic farce, the humour rising to a higher and more equable level than in most of its class; but "Dorothy Fox" on one side is a farce with the broadest quality of joke and fun sustained through three volumes, alongside of a really good and serious intention. Josiah Crewdson, poor fellow, simply exists that the author may take a "rise" out of him, if we may be pardoned a slang phrase for once. Miss Parr's fun seems simply to have run riot while she was delineating him. His love-making is something worse than absurd. Yet the poor man's honesty should have led the artist to something of the self-restraint, which he himself was enabled to exercise. Indeed, the lack of self-restraint, alongside of a certain game-some high-spiritedness, is Miss Parr's great defect. You cannot believe her serious even when she most wishes you to be so; and a deal in the book looks more like the result of superficial cleverness than of experience.

"What's the matter, Charlie? Has anything gone wrong?" asked old Mr. Egerton of his nephew, after dinner, prior to which Josiah Crewdson had called to see Captain Egerton.

"No, nothing has gone wrong; only Mr. Crewdson has just shown me that I am a cowardly scoundrel."

"Ah, I've had the same idea myself," growled Mr. Egerton; then, rasping his voice, he added, "But, confound his impudence! he needn't have come here to tell you that."

"I have been sneering at that man since ever I saw

him," continued Captain Verschoyle, speaking to himself, and giving no heed to Mr. Egerton's remarks. "I thought him one of the biggest fools in the world. I scarcely thought him worthy of common civility, and turned up my eyes at the bare idea of any woman bestowing a thought on him. Now, if any man asked me to name a man of honour and a gentleman, I'd say Josiah Crewdson."

A knave is but a fool with a circumlocution. In the light of this motto, we have here a genuine transformation scene. Captain Verschoyle, the hero, is no hero after all, but your real hero is poor Josiah, who has been the fool of the play. Oh, clever novelist, why do you thus throw dust in our eyes, and use your art to make goodness and true gentleness look absurd and asinine? You knew sooner than Captain Verschoyle what Josiah was, why did you not sooner give us some hint of his real quality? And poor Dorothy! Does this writer mean her romance to be, after all, a satire on the supreme blindness of woman? Yet Dorothy, with all the insight of true simplicity, is surely not the woman to be taken merely by a pretty face. However, a distinguished writer has aptly said that "selfishness is a quality calculated to inspire love"; and on this theory Dorothy's choice may be susceptible of defence. Much of this inconsistency is due to the determination to be funny, which we have dealt with perhaps a little strongly. We have done so because this author has so much power and fluency of conception that we believe she can produce a great novel if she will only exercise a little more self-severity.

BRIEF NOTICES.

Won at Last; or, Memoirs of Captain George and Mrs. Hannah Smith. By the Rev. THORNLEY SMITH. (London: Elliot Stock.) This book originated in the desire of Captain Smith that his eldest son might some day be able to write an account of God's dealings with his parents, "for the benefit of his children." By them it will of course be regarded with deep interest. For the general public its interest would have been greatly enhanced by its reduction to half its present size. The principal subject of the memoir, a sailor, was pressed into service on a man-of-war when the First Napoleon was meditating an attack upon England. The story of his capture, imprisonment, and escape from Saarlouis, is graphically told; and had the remaining incidents of Captain Smith's life been compressed into a single chapter, the book might have been called interesting. But it is not a little tedious to find the thread of the story used very largely for the purpose of stringing together a number of moral reflections, ideas upon things in general, and extracts from books on matters quite foreign to the ostensible purpose of the memoir. One can scarcely understand why the pages should be encumbered with a patronising plea in extenuation of Liudley Murray's grammar; extracts from Mrs. Sommerville's "Physical Geography"; an historical notice of Paul I., son of Peter the Great—the latter of whom "was undoubtedly a man of powerful genius"; and with verses culled from the poets introduced wherever an excuse can be found. The style is easy, and the getting up of the book creditable.

The Scots Worthies. Illustrated edition. By JOHN HOWIE. Revised by the Rev. W. H. CARSTAIRS, M.A. (Edinburgh: Johnstone, Hunter, and Co.) There are few Scotch families, we imagine, where old John Howie's book is unknown. It has been a fireside book for families on the Sabbath evening for more than a century. The memory of the Covenanters has thus been preserved fresh in the minds of the Scottish people by a series of brief but interesting sketches of the most notable amongst that notable body of historical personages. We fancy that it is not altogether an unknown book in English families. At all events, it is a valuable adjunct to the history of the period in which the League and Covenant had its part to play. Doubtless this illustrated edition will be welcomed by those who know the book well. The illustrations, for the most part, consist of small vignettes of places connected with the chief personages, or in some cases of their portraits. They are very numerous, and, for what they purport to be, well executed. It will make a very handsome and interesting gift-book.

Two Months in Palestine. (Nisbet and Co.) This is a reprint of articles which appeared in the *Leisure Hour* of 1869, with some nice coloured engravings of some of the chief scenes of interest. It offers itself as a guide book to those who have to make a similarly rapid tour in the Holy Land. There is nothing that is new except the personal adventure of the traveller, which is easily and pleasantly told.

GIFT-BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG.

The Child's Bible. (London: Cassell, Petter, and Co.) Though not a new publication, but being of course one of perennial interest, we have found by experience "The Child's Bible" to be a great favourite with the younger members of our household. Those who desire at this present-giving season to offer their juvenile friends a valuable souvenir, and are not particular as to cost, can make no mistake in selecting this choice and beautiful quarto edition of the sacred Scripture. Its speciality is that it supplies a consecutive arrangement

of the narrative and other portions of the Bible in the actual words of the Authorised Version, the selections from the Old Testament being made not only with a due regard to historical facts, but to its religious and moral truths and aims. The Four Gospels are, so far as practicable, harmonised as one consecutive history, and in the narrative portions of the Acts of the Apostles copious extracts from St. Paul's Epistles have been introduced in their proper historical relation. Occasionally, where the sense requires it, words and clauses are inserted in brackets; sometimes as summaries of what has been omitted, and sometimes as connecting links. "The Child's Bible" possesses all the charm for the young that can be given to a carefully collated epitome of the Scripture by narrative large type, fine paper, numerous full-page illustrations, and costly binding. The suitability and merits of Messrs. Cassell's Bible have successfully stood the test of two years' experience, and will, we doubt not, continue to recommend it as one of the choicest gift-books that can be placed in the hands of the younger members of British families.

Granny's Chapters. By LADY MARY ROSS. First Series: *Creation to the Death of Moses.* Second Series: *Joshua to the Death of Ahab.* (London: R. J. Bush.) These are a sort of free version of the Bible written for young children, written, the authoress informs us, in the first instance for two of her own grandchildren, published now "in the hope that it will be useful to other 'children'—as we have no doubt it will; still more useful to many a mother and teacher anxious to make the Bible their text-book, and yet consciously unable to do much more than read the Bible itself in the authorised version, almost "without note or comment." We have no fear that it will ever push "the grand old book aside." Everybody who can be a child's commentator will prefer to go to the fountain-head for his text. And indeed there can be no better child's version of some parts of the Old Testament than the authorised version. Who could tell the story of Samuel, for instance, half so well as it is told in the Bible itself. Still, this is not the case with all the Old Testament material. There are things which need explanation, and things beyond the comprehension of a child, if they be not translated into a child's thoughts. This is very admirably done in many cases in Lady Ross's two valuable volumes. Even in case they be never read in the family or the class, they will make an admirable handbook for a large number of teachers, who will find in them a great deal of information ready to their hand, some of which they might not know where to seek. Lady Ross has taken the Bible as it stands, without questioning anything. Criticism is ignored. All is treated literally. Genesis is history to her. Job is a veritable personage. We do not know how else she could have done. Let the little ones learn the facts that are recorded as nearly as they stand in the Bible; the time for criticism will come soon enough.

Little Elsie's Summer at Malvern. By the Hon. Mrs. CLIFFORD-BUTLER. (Nisbet and Co.) Why this book was written it is impossible to guess. Unless it be, indeed, that the Hon. Mrs. Butler had laid a bet that she would write a book, and could think of nothing else than her own little girl's doings for the last three months. There is nothing in it.

Pleasant Fruits. By M. V. HAVERGAL. (Nisbet and Co.) A series of twelve stories, written, we should guess, by the wife of an Irish Evangelical clergyman, very much in earnest to do good. It is full of what is called religious experience, but of what we should be disposed to call of a very low type, though very sincere.

Charley's Lessons About Animals. (Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.) A nice little illustrated book, about the habits and uses of domestic animals, followed by a nice little story, fit for little folk under seven.

MAGAZINES.

The *Contemporary* opens with an article strongly in favour of "Imperial Federalism," by the author of "Ginx's Baby." The article commences with a Carlylist sort of exordium, whose purport is that we are drifting to Imperial disintegration, and that the policy, or no policy, of our recent colonial legislation is tending to sever the colonies one and all from the mother country, and to leave Great Britain to sink down again into two little islands of the sea. The writer would have us give to all our colonies "autonomy" to a far greater extent than any one of them possesses at present, but continue to hold them as integral parts of the Empire. "These sons and daughters of ours" are to be allowed to have their separate establishments or households as soon as they are able to afford it, but the good old home is not to be broken up. Of course there is much to be said in favour of such a scheme that thousands of Englishmen full of the John Bull spirit will heartily endorse. But there is much to be said on the other side. It is doubtless a glorious thing to be a member of an empire whose dominions are in all the world. But can there be no such thing as Great Britain giving birth to many independent nations, who shall never forget their origin, and be quite as great a source of strength and glory as if they were still retained in "Federal" relation? For the mother to turn her children out of house and home before they are able to do for themselves would be monstrous; but for the same mother to insist on exercising her old authority when they are married

and settled in life, would be as great a mistake. The second article is by the Rev. J. Llewelyn Davies on the "Debts of Theology to Secular Movements." Its purport is to show that theology, or the science which teaches us of the nature and the dealings of God, has not been a sufferer, but a gainer by those advances which society has inevitably made in various directions. He affirms, and rightly we think, that the tendency of theology is to corruption: that men in one age coin some word to express their idea of a certain matter, and that it gets handed down as if it had a divine sanction. One of the most striking features of the essay is the utter anti-State-Churchism which Mr. Davies is not ashamed or afraid to avow. After showing that nobody speaks of toleration now, he says that there is nothing left now for the advocates of religious liberty but "to claim the absolute equality in the State of all creeds and communions." Mr. Davies goes on to show how democracy and political economy have beneficially affected theology. (Would it not have been better to say "Church life"?). He then passes to "Ethics," and shows how the improved notions of justice to which we have attained have affected the theology of the atonement. It will be read with much interest and profit by all who are alive to the great change which is going on in this department of things. There is a short article of four pages by Mr. W. R. Greg on "The Mis-take of Honest Democrats," the gist of which is that "democracies, just like aristocracies, perhaps even more than aristocracies, have a perpetual, nearly irresistible tendency to degenerate into oligarchies," in proof of which he instances Switzerland, America, and France. We are heartily glad to find in the next article by Major Noel on "National Defence," a refutation of the stupid notion that England ought to adopt the Prussian military system, and a proof that it would be incompatible with the free institutions of this country. A very interesting article on "The Present Relation of Physical Science to Mental Philosophy," by Professor Calderwood, follows Major Noel's. Arthur Helps continues his chit-chat "de omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis," under the title, "The War and General Culture"; and Dr. H. Weis concludes his valuable essay on "Music and Morals," the following extract from which will be read with interest by all. In proof of his assertion that the excitement accompanying a life devoted to music is not prejudicial to health, he says:—"Great composers, as a rule, have been remarkably healthy and long-lived. Scarlatti was seventy-six when he died; Lalande, seventy-six; Palestrina, seventy; Handel, seventy-four; Bach, sixty-five; Marcello, fifty-three; Gluck, seventy-three; Piccini, seventy-two; Haydn, seventy-seven; Cherubini, eighty-two; Beethoven, fifty-seven; Rossini, seventy-eight." Mr. Baldwin Brown's essay on "The English Church and the Dissenters" is to us the salient feature of this number of the *Contemporary*. It is a most Catholic, manly, outspoken, honest utterance of what we believe to be the thought of all the foremost Non-conformist minds about the recent overtures of comprehension which have been talked about or made from the other side. He tells Churchmen plainly enough, that we don't like their Episcopacy, nor their patronage, nor their independence, nor, hardly, anything that is theirs. There are several passages we meant to quote, but space forbids. A very interesting little history of France, under the title of "French Unity," by William Stigand, closes the number.

Good Words has an admirable review of Hugh Miller, founded upon the "Life and Letters of Hugh Miller," by Mrs. Bayne, M.A., a work which will shortly come under our notice. The author of "Ginx's Baby" contributes an article on the "Coolie," which brings to light facts not generally known, but likely enough to be heard of again when Parliament meets. This writer was engaged by the Aborigines Protection Society and the Anti-Slavery Society, to proceed to Demerara to institute inquiries on the spot into the condition of the 50,000 coolie emigrants engaged in agricultural labour in that colony. The present paper, which is, we presume, the first of a series, contains a fuller record of travel than of the results of inquiry, and we therefore await further communications from the writer before criticising his performance. Dr. McLeod's sermon on "War and Judgment" is reprinted in this number, and one of Mr. Sullivan's songs is also reproduced here, to be followed in succeeding numbers by one or two more.

Old and New (Sampson Low, Son, and Marston) is the title of an American magazine about equal in size to the *Contemporary Review*. The number before us (for December) completes the second half-yearly volume. We notice that during the ensuing year it will contain a story (already begun) by Mrs. Stowe, another by Mrs. Whitney, better known as the author of "The Gay-worthys," criticisms by W. C. Bryant, R. W. Emerson, and others. In the present number the article which pleases us most is that of Henry W. Bellows, on "Natural and Revealed Religion." The fragment of Mr. Stowe's story which appears interests us sufficiently to make us regret that we did not see the numbers which contain the opening chapters. The allusions to English affairs in this magazine are characterised by a friendly and generous spirit, and the articles on religious topics, of which there are two or three, are marked by breadth of view and reverential feeling. We anticipate much pleasure in reading the numbers for 1871.

The Preacher's Lantern (Hodder and Stoughton) is the first number of a new series of the *Pulpit Analyst*, edited by the Rev. E. Paxton Hood and the Rev. D. Longwill, M.A. As a religious miscellany it promises well. There is a good deal of freshness about the first number. The opening paper, an appreciative and thoroughly graphic sketch of James Parsons, will be read with especial delight by those who have themselves been under the spell of his oratory. The choice of subjects for other papers, and the treatment of them, are sufficiently varied. The contents of this number, if they may be taken to indicate the general character of the magazine in its new form, would lead us to speak of it as light, varied, and not wanting in suggestiveness.

Miscellaneous.

LEICESTER AND THE EDUCATION ACT.—The nomination for thirteen members to form School Board for Leicestershire, to be elected on the 11th of this month, closed on Saturday night. There were nominated thirteen Churchmen, eight Independents, eight Baptists, six Unitarians, four Wesleyans, three working men, two Quakers, one Wesleyan Reformer, one Primitive Methodist, and one Roman Catholic—in all forty seven candidates. The contest is expected to be severe. Wednesday next is the last day for resignations.

THE FUNERAL OF MR. JOHN WALTER, JUN., took place on Saturday, at St. Catherine's Church, Bearwood, and the profound sensation created by his untimely death, and the sincere regard entertained for the deceased gentleman and his family, were shown by the large attendance of all ranks and classes in the church and churchyard. Mr. Walter and all his family followed, and after them came a long procession of mourners, among whom were the chief gentry of the neighbourhood, family friends from all parts of the country, college friends of Mr. John Walter, and many persons connected with the *Times*.

THE REVENUE RETURNS for the quarter and the year ending the 31st of December are published. The gross receipts for the quarter were 15,929,182/- and for the year 70,715,374/- On the quarter there is a net decrease of 602,520/-, and on the year a net increase of 553,581/- The items of decrease during the past quarter are 337,000/- in customs; 573,000/- in taxes; and 305,000/- in property tax. Among the items of increase are—excise, 146,000/-; stamps, 55,000/-; Post Office, 20,000/-; Telegraph service, 16,000/-; and miscellaneous, 229,480/- The total charge on the Consolidated Fund is 10,113,471/-, of which 6,077,296/- was interest on the permanent debt.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Hurriedly got-up meetings were held in Navan, Kells, and other parts of Meath last week, to call on Mr. John Martin to contest the county with the Hon. Mr. Plunkett. Mr. Martin's acceptance of the invitation has been published, together with his address to the electors, at the eleventh hour. Mr. Martin announces himself a thorough-going Repealer. The nomination took place on Monday. Mr. John Martin had the show of hands. Mr. Plunkett was obliged to speak only to the reporters. The polling takes place to-morrow. It seems a matter of some doubt whether the local Liberals will contest the vacancy occasioned in the representation of West Norfolk by the elevation to the peerage of the Hon. T. de Grey, in consequence of the death of his father, Lord Walsingham.

THE SEVERE WEATHER AND POOR RELIEF.—At the meeting of the Holborn Board of Guardians on Wednesday evening, a letter was read from Mr. Corbett, Poor Law Inspector, urging that during the present severe weather all new applications for relief should be immediately visited and thoroughly investigated. Many of the aged and infirm outdoor paupers, it was added, may require some additional temporary assistance, which may, probably, be best afforded in the form of soup or fuel, or by the loan of blankets or bedding. If any temporary assistants are required either to aid the relieving officers or for the better supervision of the labour tests, no obstacle, Mr. Corbett stated, would be offered by the Poor Law Board to their employment. At the same time he urged upon the guardians and their relief committees the importance of granting relief for the shortest possible period to all persons applying through want of employment arising from the inclemency of the weather, and remarked that the establishment of a soup-kitchen, either at the workhouse or in connection with the outdoor labour yard, has at such seasons as the present been found of great service.

THE BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS for November continue to indicate a steady revival of the commerce of the country. Compared with those for the corresponding date of last year they show an increase of 1,090,115/-, or more than 7 per cent. on the declared value of our exports, while over the same month of 1868 there is an excess of nearly 16 per cent. The exports of arms and ammunition have amounted to 331,893/-, against 103,768/-, but still constitute a small total in comparison with those consigned from the United States. There has been an increase of 26 per cent. in coal, 10 per cent. in cotton on yarn, 8 per cent. in cotton manufactures, 16 per cent. in haberdashery, and 76 per cent. in silk manufactures. In the exports of machinery there has been a decrease of 16 per cent. The imports of wheat, against 4,518,803 cwt. in the same month last year, of which about one-half came from Russia, and 682,649 cwt. of cotton against 928,901 cwt.

The total value of our exports during the first eleven months of the present year has been 182,562,925/-, being about 4½ per cent. in excess of the corresponding eleven months of 1869, and 10½ per cent. on 1868.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.—Messrs. Hurst and Blackett's announcements for the New Year comprise:—The Third and Fourth Volumes of "Her Majesty's Tower," by W. Hepworth Dixon, completing the work.—"Recollections of Society in France and England," by the Lady Clementina Davies, 2 vols. crown 8vo.—"Life and Adventures of Count Brugnot," Minister of State under Napoleon I., Edited from the French by Miss C. M. Yonge, Author of "The Heir of Redclyffe," &c., 2 vols. 8vo.—"Impressions of Greece," by the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Wyse, K.C.B., late British Minister at Athens, 8vo.—"Life and Letters of William Bewick, the Artist," by Thomas Landseer, A.E., 2 vols. 8vo., with Portrait by Sir Edwin Landseer, R.A.—"Turkish Harem and Circassian Homes," by Mrs. Harvey, of Ickwell Bury, 8vo, with coloured illustrations.—"Lodge's Peerage and Baronetage for 1871," under the especial patronage of Her Majesty and corrected throughout by the nobility, royal 8vo; and new works of Fiction by the author of "John Halifax," Mrs. Oliphant, Miss Amelia B. Edwards, Mr. Anthony Trollope, Mr. George MacDonald, Mr. J. Sheridan LeFanu, &c.

Gleanings.

A professor of logic at the University of Edinburgh once asked a pupil, whilst illustrating some self-evident proposition, "Can a man see without eyes?" "Certainly," said the pupil. "How, sir!" cried the enraged professor; "pray, sir, how did you make that out?" "He can see with one, sir," replied the pupil.

A story is told of one of the *nouveaux riches* of Boston, who having after a long struggle worked himself into good society, by means of the aristocratic alliance of his daughter, gave a grand dinner-party to his newly-acquired circle. He didn't invite his own brother, for the reason that "society is getting so mixed, one must draw a line somewhere."

SCHOOL FRIENDS.—The *Liverpool Mercury* says the Ormskirk Guardians have just granted the workhouse porter, Luke Hemer, a week's holiday. The fact is stated to be that Mr. Hemer, notwithstanding his humble position, is going to spend a few hours at Hawarden with no less a personage than the Premier. Luke and Mr. Gladstone were schoolfellows together, and although they now stand so far apart in the social scale, Luke every year pays a short visit to the right honourable gentleman.

A MODEL WIFE.—Rev. C. G. Ames, of California, has a wife who is a helpmeet indeed, taking her husband's place in his pulpit in case of his sickness or absence. On a recent Sabbath she "got up in the morning, prepared breakfast, washed and dressed her baby, dressed her little daughter for Sabbath school, put baby to sleep, and sat down and reviewed her sermon before time to take the cars for church, when, consigning baby to the loving care of his grandmother, she went to church, and preached, to the entire satisfaction of a large and critical audience."

MUSICAL CRITISMS EXTRAORDINARY.—A writer in an American paper (*the Hartford Post*) thus sums up his opinion of Mdlle. Christine Nilsson:—"She is Like a Railroad Train at Highest Speed, with a load of Hearts. She Sails, Also, and upon a Full Tide—She suddenly Reverses Her Steam, Stops Short, Comes Out, Strong in her Soft Passages, and Goes Across a High Bridge Over a Torrent Firm on its Foundations, the Hushed Atmosphere Meantime Being Highly Charged with Romance."

ANTIQUITY OF TOOTHACHE.—Touching the question as to whether the Romans suffered from toothache, a correspondent suggests the following may be not without interest:—"Some years ago, at Weymouth, I saw a museum in which were preserved the skulls both of Romans and of Britons, which had been found in the neighbourhood. Every Roman skull had decayed teeth, and every British skull had all the teeth sound. Perhaps some of your readers may be able to explain this phenomenon; but it seems to follow pretty surely that the Romans knew what toothache meant."—*Guardian*.

"BO" TO A GOOSE.—Ben Jonson having heard that Lord Craven was anxious to see him, went to his lordship's house. Being in a somewhat tattered condition, the porter refused to admit him, and addressed him in impudent language, which Ben did not fail to return. While they were wrangling, Lord Craven happened to come out, and desired to know the cause of the quarrel. Jonson immediately said, "I understood your lordship wanted to see me."—"You, friend?" replied the lord, "who are you?"—"Ben Jonson," replied the other. "No, no; you cannot be Ben Jonson, who wrote the 'Silent Woman'; you look as if you could not say bo to a goose!" "Bo!" cried Ben. "Very well," said his lordship, who was better pleased at the joke than offended at the affront, "I am now convinced of your identity."

SEEING OURSELVES AS OTHERS SEE US.—A French lady, an exile from her "beautiful France," has been struck with the "Married Englishwoman"—her incapacity for many domestic duties, and she has written down her observations, and printed them in the shape of a letter to the London papers. She asks why it is that Englishwomen, high and low, show such incapacity in what Frenchwomen consider to be the first duties of every-day life—how to

mend, to cut out, to sew, to knit, to wash, to cook, to look nice, and make all around look nice, even with the smallest means. "No woman," writes the fair censor, "seems to consider it her first duty to mend and keep clean those garments which her husband's wages have hardly earned, and which her lazy and unclean fingers do not care to preserve tidy to the end. . . . How I wish they could see many a French 'blouse,' old, worn, faded, but neatly patched, cleanly washed tidily repaired by the active fingers of a clever housewife."

ERROR OF THE PRESS.—A rather irascible vicar having fallen out with one of his parishioners, and wishing to administer him a good public rebuke, ordered a number of handbills to be printed. The copy began, "Whereas an evil-disposed person," &c. The bills were sent home late at night; and the vicar and his men went out, lantern and paste-brush in hand, to ornament all the shop doors and blank walls in the village. Next day, early in the morning, our clerical authority set off on his rounds. Jack Stubbington was on the broad grin. Jim Stiles nearly forgot to give his front lock of hair the right pull, he was laughing so when he looked at his reverence. Mrs. Hammond ran into her bakehouse. "Ah! they have all seen my handbill, and are enjoying the lecture I have thought it my duty to administer," condescendingly explained Dr. Blank to his clerk. The man smiled delightedly; and, at the moment, who should come in sight but the miserable sinner, the object of the vicar's righteous wrath, Mr. Dash? He burst into a loud laugh. "Perfectly outrageous!—quite hardened," cried the vicar; but the rest of his reflections were lost to the public, for his eye fell on a large board carried by one of Dash's men, on which were three of his own printed effusions—"Whereas an evil-disposed Person," &c.; the change of one letter had made a wonderful difference in the handbills; they were no longer applicable to his neighbour,—the cap fitted himself.

THE POT ON THE FIRE.—There is one mode of preparing food in general use in many parts of the continent which we should do very well more generally to adopt, that is, "gentle simmering." In every or almost every French household there is the *pot au feu*. This permanent "pot on the fire," after the manner of the old-fashioned "digestor," occupies a quiet little corner of the stove or fireplace. It can hardly be said to boil, but simmers on gently, very gently, for hours. There it is, the receptacle of many a little bone, whether the trimmings of poultry or butchers' meat. It matters not, every little stray fragment of wholesome meat finds its way there. A bit of liver is considered an immense improvement; and any vegetables that happen to be about add to its pleasant flavour, whether the tops of celery, Jerusalem artichokes—which, *par excellence*, makes it delicious—or otherwise carrots, turnips, leeks, &c. But supposing it were to be made altogether of fresh materials—which, indeed, in France it rarely is—this would be the proper recipe: Put a gallon of water into a pot; put into this three or four pounds of shin beef, or any similar thing. Add to this an onion or two, or some leeks, carrot, or other vegetable, three or four teaspoonsfuls of salt, one of black pepper, three cloves. Give it one boil up; skim carefully. Never cover the pot closely, and let it cook gently for four hours at the least. About every hour throw a wineglassful of cold water into it to make it clear. Taste: it may require a little more salt or pepper, according to taste. Pour this soup over toasted crusts of bread. Both soup and meat will be found delicious. The whole secret of this lies in the gentle simmering in a covered vessel, whereby the flavour is wholly preserved, and nothing is lost. A bullock's head so cooked is excellent.—*People's Magazine*.

NOTICE.—All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage-stamps.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

MIRAMS.—August 24, at Collingwood, Melbourne, Australia, the wife of Mr. John Mirams, bookseller, of a son.
MIRAMS.—Oct. 15, at Dunedin, New Zealand, the wife of Mr. William Mirams, clerk, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

WILKINS-FIELD.—Dec 31, at the Independent Church of the Holy Trinity, Croydon, by the Rev. W. Field, M.A., of Lyngton, brother-in-law of the bridegroom and brother of the bride, Augustus S. Wilkins, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge. Fellow of University College, London, and Professor of Latin in Owen's College, Manchester, to Charlotte Elizabeth, second daughter of the late Mr. William Field, of Woodlands, Bishop Stortford.

DEATHS.

SLATTERIE.—Dec. 29, at Ebley, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, the Rev. John Slatterie, Congregational minister, in the eighty-third year of his age.

STACY.—Dec. 31, at 11, Amhurst-road East, Hackney, E., Olive Hayward, the beloved wife of Jonathan Sargeant Stacy, and only daughter of John and Olive Cook, of Effra Lodge, Cambridge Heath, E., aged twenty-three.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS combine both sanative and sanative powers in a high degree. By the former term is understood their ability to preserve health; by the latter, their capability to restore health. With these remedies at hand no invalid need be at fault to guide himself or herself through the many trials to which every one is subjected during our long and oftentimes inclement winter. Coughs, colds, ulcerated throat, diphtheria, and whooping cough, can be successfully treated by well rubbing this ointment upon the chest and by taking the pills. During damp foggy weather, asthmatical sufferers will experience the utmost possible relief from the injunction of the ointment, and all tender-chested persons will save endless misery by adopting this treatment.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's *Gazette*).
An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, Dec. 28.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued £37,007,390 Government Debt £11,015,100

Other Securities 3,984,900 Gold Coin & Bullion 23,007,390

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital £14,553,000 Government Securities 8,067,025

Public Deposits 8,101,171 weight annuity £12,925,855

Other Deposits 18,245,465 Other Securities 17,168,421

Seven Day and other Notes 13,937,045

Bills 760,804 Gold & Silver Coin 696,146

Dec. 29, 1870.

GEO. FORBES, Chief Cashier

NOTICE.—KINAHAN'S LL. WHISKY DEPOT.—Kinahan and Co. have removed to their new and spacious premises, No. 64, Great Titchfield-street, Oxford-street, leading from Margaret-street, Regent-street, and Market-street, Oxford-street Kinahan's LL. Whisky.—This famous and most delicious old mellow spirit is the very cream of Irish Whiskies, in quality unrivalled, perfectly pure, and more wholesome than the finest Cognac Brandy. Can be obtained all over the kingdom, in the well-known sealed and labelled bottles, or in bond for exportation at the London Docks. Wholesale Agents to Messrs. Bass, Guinness, and Younger, and Dealers in Foreign Wines and Spirits.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, Jan. 2. The supply of English wheat for this morning's market was short, and mostly in poor condition. Arrivals from abroad are moderate. Sales of English wheat progressed slowly, at an advance of 1s. per qr. on the week, for English as well as foreign wheat. Flour sold at 1s. per sack and 6d. per bri. advance. Peas and beans were fully as dear. Barley of all descriptions sold freely at previous prices. Indian corn met demand at a little improvement in value. Arrival of oats are liberal, they met a good demand, and prices ruled 6d. to 1s. per qr. over the rates of Monday week. Cargoes of fine quality meet demand and maintain their value.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHAT	Per qr.		Per qr.		
	s.	d.	s.	d.	
Esex and Kent, red	—	—	86	6	
Ditto new	49	55	Maple	41	45
White	—	—	White	36	40
" new	54	57	Boilers	36	40
Foreign red	50	54	Foreign, boilers	38	39
" white	52	56	Rye	36	38
BARLEY			Oats		
English malting	31	34	English feed	22	23
Chevalier	35	41	" potato	27	34
Distilling	34	38	Scotch feed	—	—
Foreign	33	35	Irish black	19	22
" white	49	54	" white	20	23
BEANS			Foreign feed	20	23
Ticks	38	41	Flour		
Harrow	41	45	Town made	44	47
Small	—	—	Country Marks	37	39
Egyptian	38	39	Norfolk & Suffolk	35	37
BREAD, London, Saturday, Dec. 31.—The prices in the Metropolis are, for Wheat Bread, per lbs. loaf 7d. to 8d. Household Bread, 6d. to 7d.					

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Jan. 2.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 4,614 head. In the corresponding week in 1870 we received 5,059; in 1869, 1,617; in 1868, 7,116; and in 1867 4,027 head. Owing to the cold weather there has been a firm feeling prevalent in the cattle trade, and the value of all qualities has been well maintained. The show of beasts has been short, the foreign arrivals being detained by stress of weather. Although not active, the demand has been firm, and full rates have been realized for all breeds, the best Scots and crosses selling at ls. 10d. to 2d. per lbs. From Norfolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire we received about 1,150 Scots and crosses; from Lincolnshire, &c., about 500 short-horns, &c., and from Scotland 210 Scots and crosses. There has been only a moderate supply of sheep in the pens. The inquiry was restricted, and prices were nominally unaltered. The best Dows and half-breds have sold at 6s. 2d. to 6s. 4d. per lbs. Calves and pigs were in limited request, at late rates.

For lbs. to sink the offal.

a. d.	a. d.	a. d.	a. d.	a. d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3	6	4	6
Second quality	4	6	4	10
Primes large oxen	5	4	5	8
Primes, &c., do.	5	10	6	8
Coarse inf. sheep	2	6	3	10
Second quality	4	0	4	8
Pr. coarse woolled	5	2	5	10
Suckling calves, —s. to —s.	—	—	2s.	2s.
			quarter-old store pigs, 22s.	to 26s. each.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Jan. 2.—Moderate supplies of meat have been on sale. There has been a good demand at full quotations. The imports into London last week consisted of 38 bags from Antwerp, 150 packages Rotterdam, 100 Harlingen, and 577 Hamburg.

a. d.	a. d.	a. d.	a. d.	a. d.
Inferior beef	3	4	3	5
Middling ditto	4	0	4	4
Prime large do.	4	10	5	0
Do. small do.	5	2	5	4
Inf. mutton	3	4	3	8
Middling ditto	4	0	4	4

PROVISIONS, Monday, Jan. 2.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 1,042 hams butter and 3,877 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 7,907 packages butter and 313 bales bacon. In the butter market there was little change last week, except that the finest Irish brought advanced prices. The bacon market ruled slow. The severe weather and the holidays interfering with business, prices declined 2s. to 8s. per cwt. Best Waterford sizeable 6s. free on board.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Saturday, Dec. 31.—There is a very short supply of out-door fruit in consequence of the severity of the weather, and there is a very thin attendance of buyers. The prices, however, have not yet advanced to such an extent as to alter our last quotation. Good dessert pears and apples are abundant, and embrace all the usual varieties. Grapes and pines are sufficient for the demand. Seakale is now coming very good. Cucumbers are scarce. Amongst flowers we have Orchids, Chrysanthemums, Heaths, Cyclamens, Primulas, Hyacinths, Tulips, Camellias, and Peonies, and a large supply of dwarf evergreens and "Christmas trees."

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, Jan. 2.—As usual at this period of the year, business is limited; all classes of hops, however, are firm at recent quotations, and holders of

fine qualities show no disposition to effect sales. No new feature is visible in the foreign markets. Imports from the 1st September, 1870, to the present date amount to 17,831 hds. Mid and East Kent, 11. 15s. to 12. 10s. to 12. Os.; Wealds, 12. 15s. to 31. 15s.; Sussex, 11. 10s. to 21. 6s. to 31. 10s.; Farnham and country, 31. 15s. to 41. 15s. to 61. 6s.; Olds, 11. 10s. to 21. 10s.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, Jan. 2.—These markets have been sparingly supplied with potatoes. The trade has been firm, at steady currencies. English Regents, 60s. to 90s. per ton; Scotch Regents, 60s. to 85s. per ton; Rocks, 60s. to 70s. per ton.

SEED.—Monday, Jan. 2.—A limited quantity of English cloverseed still comes forward; the choicer qualities are held firmly, at very high prices. The best American qualities meet a good inquiry, and prices are tending upwards. Fine white cloverseed, whether English or foreign, must be quoted quite as dear. Choice trefoil was rather higher, such meeting more inquiry. There was nothing passing in either brown or white mustardseed to alter its value. Choice English rapeseed continues to be taken off at very high rates, from its scarcity. Fine English canaryseed realised full rates. Large Dutch hempseed was quite as dear. Foreign taros were held on former terms, with a moderate demand.

WOOL, Monday, Jan. 2.—Most of the markets are closed to-day, so there is very little doing in any department of business. Transactions in English wool are of quite a retail character, and prices are nominal in the absence of important business. Last week the demand ran chiefly on choice qualities, and for such full rates were required.

OIL, Monday, Jan. 2.—Linseed has been quiet, but firm. Rape has been steady, and has commanded full prices. Other oils have been unaltered.

TALLOW, Monday, Jan. 2.—The market has been firm. Y.C. spot, 45s. 8d. per cwt. Town tallow, 41s. net cash.

COAL, Monday, Jan. 2.—The market was steady, at fully last prices, Hettone, 19s. 6d.; Hettone Lyons, 16s. 9d.; Hettone Bradbys, 18s. 6d.; Heswell, 18s. 6d.; Hawthorn, 18s. 6d.; Tunstall, 18s. 9d. Ships fresh arrived, 12; left from last day, 6; total, 18; at sea, 10.

Advertisements.

THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT

CENTRAL NONCONFORMIST COMMITTEE,
86, NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

Just published.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FORMATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS.

MR. STREETER (Successor to

HANCOCK and CO., Limited),

GOLDSMITH and JEWELLER,

WATCH and CLOCK-MAKER

TO the ROYAL FAMILY,

37, CONDUIT-STREET,

BOND-STREET, LONDON, W.,

INTRODUCER of the CELEBRATED

18-CARAT GOLD JEWELLERY, also

WATCHES and CLOCKS,

MAchine-MADE.

BRACELETS, SIRAP, 18-CARAT £5 0

BRACELETS, ETRUSCAN, „ £7 0

BRACELETS, NINEVEH, „ £10 0

BRACELETS, SAXON, „ £15 0

BROOCHES, ETRUSCAN, „ £2 10

BROOCHES, NINEVEH, „ £3 0

BROOCHES, SAXON, „ £4 0

BROOCHES, EGYPTIAN, „ £5 0

CHAINS, PRINCESS, „ £2 0

CHAINS, CYLINDER, „ £3 0

CHAINS, CURB, „ £4 0

CHAINS, CABLE, „ £5 0

EARRINGS, ETRUSCAN, „ £1 10

EARRINGS, SAXON, „ £2 5

EARRINGS, EGYPTIAN, „ £3 5

EARRINGS, NINEVEH, „ £4 10

LOCKETS, ENGRAVED, „ £1 0

LOCKETS, CORDED, „ £2 10

LOCKETS, CROSS, „ £4 0

GOLD WATCHES, LADIES', £8 8

GOLD WATCHES, „ £10 10

GOLD WATCHES, 4-PLATE, £15 15

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £11 11

GOLD WATCHES, 4-PLATE, £16 16

GOLD WATCHES, „ £20 0

GOLD WATCHES, KEYLESS £15 10

GOLD WATCHES, „ £22 0

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £18 18

CLICKS, CARRIAGE, £5 0

CLICKS, „ (STRIKING), £7 7

CLICKS, „ (ON GONG), £12 12

CLICKS, LIBRARY (MARBLE), £4 0

CLICKS, „ „ £10 12

CLICKS, „ „ £14 0

CLICKS, „ (ORMOLU), £10 0

CLICKS, „ „ £15 0

THE ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE,

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5 DOORS from **BOND - STREET**,
LONDON,

SUCCESSOR to **HANCOCK & COMPANY**.

LIMITED

THOMAS COOPER'S ENGAGEMENTS

for the Year 1871.

JANUARY 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Hull.
7, 8, 9, 10, Pocklington, Yorkshire.

11, 12, 13, Hull.

14, 15, 16, 17, Market Weighton, Yorkshire.

18, 19, 20, Hull.

21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Leeds.

FEBRUARY 1, 2, 3, Leeds.

4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Bradford, Yorkshire.

11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, Halifax, Yorkshire.

18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, Manchester.

1, 2, 3, Manchester.

4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Ashton-under-Lyne, near Man-

chester.

11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, Huddersfield, Yorkshire.

18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, Ossett, near Wakefield.

25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Wakefield, Yorkshire.

APRIL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Morley, near Leeds.

8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, Gildersome, near Leeds.

15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Pudsey, near Leeds.

22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, Stanningley, near Leeds.

29, 30, Knaresborough.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Knaresborough, Yorkshire.

6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Harrogate, Yorkshire.

13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, Ripon, Yorkshire.

20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, Stockton-on-Tees.

27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Crosby-Garrett, near Penrith,

Cumberland.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Crosby-Garrett, near Penrith,

Cumberland.

7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, Kirkby-Stephen,

Westmoreland.

17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, Sedbergh, Yorkshire.

23, 24, 25, 26, 27, Kirkby-Lonsdale, Westmore-

land.

28, 29, 30, Barrow-in-Furness.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Barrow-in-Furness.

6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Settle, Yorkshire.

13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, Sabden, near Blackburn,

Lancashire.

19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, Keighley,

Yorkshire.

29, 30, Hebden-Bridge, Yorkshire.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Hebden-Bridge, Yorkshire.

6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Sowerby-Bridge, Yorkshire.

12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, Houghton-le-Spring,

Fence Houses, Durham.

10, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, Chester-le-Street, Fence

Houses, Durham.

26, 27, 28, 29, 30, Willington Quay, Northum-

berland.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2, 3, Gateshead, near Newcastle-on-Tyne.

4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Darlington.

11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, Saltire, near Leeds.

18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, Shipley, near Leeds.

25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, Heckmondwike, near Leeds.

OCTOBER 1, Heckmondwike.

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Holmfirth, near Huddersfield.

9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, Kirkburton, near Hud-

dersfield.

16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Denby Dale, near Hud-

dersfield.

22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, Sheffield.

To letters to be addressed, "THOMAS COOPER, Lecturer on Christianity," at the town to which I am appointed, as "Bradford, Yorkshire," "Durham," "Jarrow-on-Tyne," &c.

** Correspondents are requested NOT to put "Post Office" on their letters to me.*

T. C.

MILL HILL SCHOOL, MIDDLESEX.

Head Master—

RICHARD F. WEYMOUTH, Esq., D. Lit. and M.A., Fellow of Univ. Coll., Lond.; Member of the Council of the Philo-

logical Society, &c., &c.

Second Master—

J. H. TAYLOR, Esq., M.A., Queen's Coll., Oxford; Double First in Moderations, and 2nd Class in the Final Classical School; Scholar (B.A.) of Trin. Coll., Camb., 11th in 1st Class in Classical Tripos, and 1st Chancellor's Medallist, 1868.

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With these few explanations, and with right hearty New Year's greetings, the Editor and Publishers make their bow, and retire behind the scenes.

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